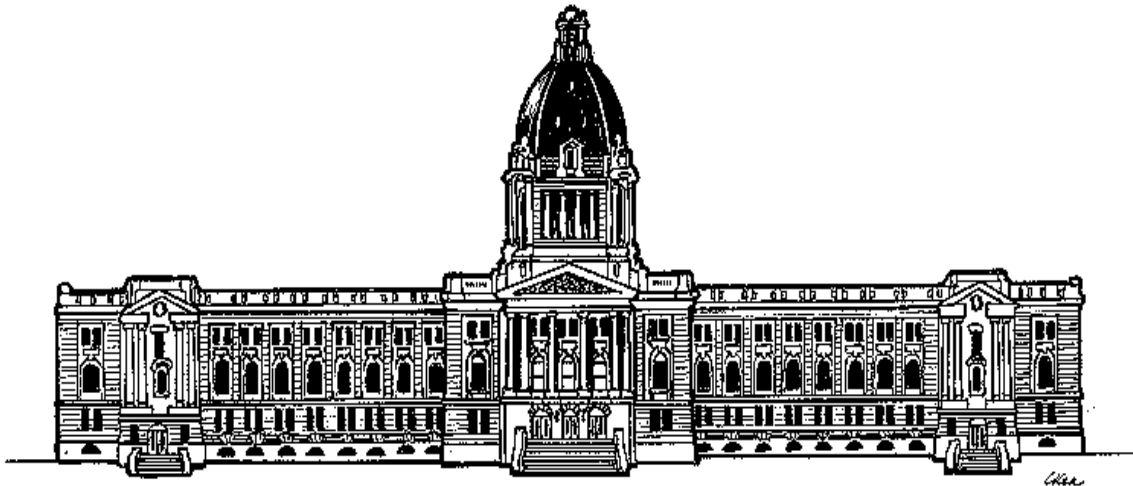




STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE**

Mr. Warren Michelson, Chair
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Frank Quennell, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Meewasin

Mr. Greg Brkich
Arm River-Watrous

Mr. Michael Chisholm
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Mr. Wayne Elhard
Cypress Hills

Ms. Deb Higgins
Moose Jaw Wakamow

Hon. Laura Ross
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley

[The committee met at 14:45.]

The Chair: — Well good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee. My name is Warren Michelson. I am the Chair of the committee. And along with me on this committee is Michael Chisholm, Wayne Elhard, Laura Ross, and Frank Quennell and Deb Higgins. Also with us this afternoon is Mr. Warren McCall, who will be asking questions.

Before we begin, I would like to table document IAJ 21/26, the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, response to questions raised on April 11th, 2011 meeting regarding criminal management justice system, drawings of the Court of Queen's Bench renovation additions, dated April 20th, 2011. This was distributed to all members on May 5th.

This afternoon this committee will be in consideration of estimates from the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations and the estimates of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. If the committee decides to conclude discussions on all the estimates, we will be voting on the estimates and adopting a report to present to the Assembly. We will then have a short recess and reconvene to consider Bill No. 169, the Saskatchewan financial commissions amendment Act, 2011.

First on the agenda is to consider the estimates of the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations, vote 25, and lending and investing activities, vote no. 163.

**General Revenue Fund
First Nations and Métis Relations
Vote 25**

Subvote (FN01)

The Chair: — Minister Cheveldayoff, welcome to the hearings. I will let you introduce your officials please.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Indeed a pleasure to be here back in front of committee members and to be joined by my officials. Joining me today are Deputy Minister Ron Crowe; Assistant Deputy Minister James Froh; Kerry Gray who's the director of finance, accounting, and corporate affairs. Also joining us, Mark LaRocque, executive director of social development; Trisha Delormier-Hill, executive director of lands; and Giselle Marcotte, executive director, relationships and policy branch. With that, Mr. Chair, I look forward to questions this afternoon.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. My apologies to Mr. Brkich. He is also one of our committee members, and I omitted him when I was doing the introductions. Mr. Minister, is there any opening questions . . . opening statements rather, or did you want to go directly to questions?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I don't have any opening statements. We had quite a long and involved debate last time, discussion, and I'm prepared to answer questions at this time.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. We'll look for questions from the committee. Mr. McCall, do you have some

questions?

Mr. McCall: — I do indeed, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much. Mr. Minister, officials, welcome to the committee proceedings and for this final round of consideration for the estimates before us.

I guess the first question I'd ask straight off is, in terms of some of the work that's before the ministry this year, is the work on defining or adopting a new policy on self-government. Could the minister or officials inform the committee as to how that has changed the participation of First Nations, Métis Relations and the Government of Saskatchewan in the treaty table, indifferent of the working groups attached to that effort, and how the process of redefining the government's approach on self-government will take place and when we can expect that to be announced?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll ask Mr. Crowe to answer the questions. He's been doing a lot of work in this area, and other officials as well.

Mr. Crowe: — Thank you. Ron Crowe, deputy minister, First Nations and Métis Relations. So at this point in particular time, we are going through an extensive review of the self-government policy, and it's a complex and evolving area.

There remains challenging and outstanding issues with the negotiations on a final draft with the Meadow Lake First Nation and more recently the proposal from the Whitecap Dakota First Nations. We have taken a hiatus from the Meadow Lake conversation, discussions, considering that we are in a review right now. We still communicate with the First Nations, that hasn't stopped the relationship with any of the First Nations. I would also say that we continue conversations with Whitecap Dakota First Nation on a number of other activities, so a relationship hasn't stopped. The relationship continues.

However in this complex, evolving area of self-government, we are doing an extensive review of the policy and how to take those next steps forward. Considering that the shifting of various positions from First Nations, this is an opportune time to have a review and determine what's the proper course of action over the next months and years to come.

Mr. McCall: — What prompted, just so we're clear for the committee, Mr. Chair, what prompted the Government of Saskatchewan to revisit the self-government policy?

Mr. Crowe: — Thanks for the question. Essentially what we have right now, and I mentioned earlier the evolving nature and positions in self-government, we basically have a policy that needs some updating, that needs consideration of new, evolving positions. And presently we have, we also have new requests from First Nations on proceeding with self-government, and it's not what government was initially mandated, prompting us to enact the review.

Mr. McCall: — Just to be clear, when did the review commence?

Mr. Crowe: — About 12 months ago.

Mr. McCall: — When will the review conclude?

Mr. Crowe: — This is something that we haven't wanted to put an exact time frame because we really believe it's something that has to be reviewed. Given that it's so complex and so dynamic, we haven't set a specific date for a renew. We hope sooner than later. Having said that, it's an evolving topic, evolving and shifting course of discussion. So we're going to take the time that's needed to get the appropriate understanding and ensure that we have a mandate that's needed to enter any kind of conversations going forward.

Mr. McCall: — So to recap, 12 months to date it's taken in terms of the review, and it's hard to tell when the review will conclude.

Mr. Crowe: — Well what I would say is that we want to do this in a way that's going to have some good guidance over the next months and years to come. I think we need to make sure that whatever we adopt as a policy and a mandate looks ahead to some of the . . . to the future in terms of the evolution of self-government. And I think what we need to do is make sure that we take the time to do that as best as we can.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Minister. Mr. Chair, I guess one of the things that . . . and there's certainly a number of tables and a number of fronts that are interconnected and interdependent. Certainly we've talked previously on the committee about the sub-tables flowing out of the duty to consult and accommodate efforts of the government of Saskatchewan. Have any of those sub-tables met as of yet?

Mr. Crowe: — No, we haven't had sub-tables per se under the topics. I would also say that doesn't mean we haven't had conversations. We've had several conversations with Chief Lonechild, with the appropriate vice-chiefs as well. And there's still efforts, and where some efforts are taking place right now is at officials level to get some understandings. We are still meaning, intending to move forward on these important topics as they relate to duty to consult and capacity. And we're quite hopeful.

And recently the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] just had a portfolio change. So we've already entered into those conversations again with the vice-chief and following up with some conversations with some of the officials as well. So things are under way. I can't say that we're completely engaged and active, but the intent is there. And I think there is a real tremendous opportunity to have those conversations and get to the table to have the conversations that are needed around those sub-tables as you described and the topics that need to be addressed, including consultation, capacity, traditional land use, and dispute resolution are really important for us to enter into conversations about as we move forward on the duty to consult.

Mr. McCall: — I guess given that, does the minister or officials have any estimation as to when those tables might start their work?

Mr. Crowe: — I would say that we . . . I don't want to presume that officials or leadership from the FSIN are going to commit without having the kind of understanding. I would hope that we get those discussions on as soon as possible. And given the

conversations, and I don't want to be too presumptuous, but I would say the conversations that I've had and our officials are having at a senior level are fruitful and looking forward to those conversations to take place.

Mr. McCall: — But again I guess the business of the committee is trying to ascertain what are the concrete activities and what are the deliverables, what are the benchmarks, what is the game plan for the ministry. So does the deputy minister anticipate the work of the tables commencing before the fall, or is this something we should wait until next budget? Is there some kind of ballpark in terms of when the work will get under way?

And again I don't think I'm being unreasonable in asking for a more solid game plan because, as the deputy minister well knows, this is a file has been going on for quite some time and should go on for quite some time to come, I would imagine. But when does the deputy minister think things are going to get under way?

Mr. Crowe: — We're having really fruitful conversations right now with the appropriate vice-chief, and we have some more conversations with the senior officials, both with FNMR [First Nations and Métis Relations] and FSIN. The need to have these conversations and the sub-tables, as you described, there's a genuine need. And we've committed ourselves to work with the First Nations and Métis to develop some understanding and some awareness around those topic areas.

We are committed. The commitment is there. We have identified resources from our budget to support these tables. What we need is the willing partner to involve themselves in the conversations so that we could get moving on this. These issues such as capacity, traditional mapping, land use, dispute resolution are key items that we are very serious about, and we will not relegate our responsibility to have those conversations.

The willingness is there from First Nations and Métis Relations to engage in those conversations. And the conversations that I've had with the appropriate vice-chief and some of our officials with FSIN, there's opportunity, I believe, in the very near future. I would hope that we would get this under way real soon. However saying that, we need our partners to be willing to engage in the conversation because these are quite serious issues to deal with.

Mr. McCall: — Well, and I guess I agree with the deputy minister. And certainly if it's not dealt with in a systematic, structural sort of basis, then it comes back in ways, like the request from various of the Touchwood First Nations and other First Nations in that immediate area around the timeline with Jansen Lake and BHP Billiton. So if we don't deal with it in a structural way . . . And it's not to say that this will close the door for further case-by-case incidents of this kind of nature coming forward in the future. But if you don't have the work of the tables, which took over a vast amount of what was contentious out of the duty to consult and accommodate file, the longer that string plays out, the greater the uncertainty, the harder it is for us to progress forward as a province.

I guess on that note, if the minister or deputy minister or officials could update the committee on the request that was

made of First Nations and Métis Relations and the Government of Saskatchewan for an intervention around the developments with BHP Billiton and Jansen Lake.

[15:00]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much for the question. To the member, very recently, last week and on occasions before that, we have met to talk about the topic referenced and to ascertain all the information that the various bands wanted to bring to government. We have taken that information and forwarded it to Environment, since it is an Environment decision, and we've asked them, you know, to take those concerns under advisement. And as far as FNMR in our advisory role, we've done our job and now it'll be up to Environment to make the final decisions on it.

Mr. McCall: — So what the First Nations were requesting was an extension to the 30-day period for the environmental impact assessment, is my understanding of it. So First Nations and Métis Relations was recommending that such an extension be granted to your colleagues in Environment? Or if you could clarify for the committee.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Again thank you very much to the member for the question. As requested, we have made representation to Environment on behalf of the First Nations that came to see us. The expertise in dealing with this is housed within Environment, and we have not received a response back from Environment as far as whether they have granted this extension or not.

Mr. McCall: — It's past the deadline for the response period as set out for the First Nations. Does the minister or officials anticipate a response from Environment today, tomorrow, within hours? What's anticipated?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Very soon. It's very top of mind right now, and I know that correspondence has gone back and forth between ministries over the weekend. So we just have not heard the final decision as of today, but hopefully if not today, sometime tomorrow that we do hear about it.

Mr. McCall: — Given that the deadline was, I believe, on Friday, that would put the First Nations in breach in terms of the set-out response period. Is there any sort of penalty involved in that, or does that provide implicit agreement then? How does that affect the situation around the environmental impact?

Mr. Froh: — My name is James Froh, and I'm the assistant deputy minister of First Nations and Métis Relations.

My understanding is that, pursuant to section 11 of *The Environmental Assessment Act*, public notice was placed by the Ministry of Environment in public papers, both dailies and weeklies, stating the 30-day public review period for the environmental impact statement for the Jansen mine project, and that, you're correct, it concluded Friday, May 6th.

So in terms of any obligation, there is no obligation for the public to respond to public notices. At the same time, if there are interests or if there are concerns with a particular project or development, this provides an opportunity for the public to state

their concerns on the record and for that to be considered in the environmental assessment process.

Mr. McCall: — So again, under the letter of the law, under the letter of section 11 as you had referenced, if there had not been a concern registered, then this enables the corporation to move ahead in the assessment process or the development of the project? Would that be a correct interpretation of the law and the process?

Mr. Froh: — My understanding is that any concerns or objections noted, both publicly and response in terms of the public notice, will be taken in consideration as part of a broader environmental assessment process. I'm not an expert on *The Environmental Assessment Act*, but I do know that there are various, there's various points in time in which, in which input is sought, and in terms to inform the process and the ultimate decision and in the Act.

Mr. McCall: — I thank the official. And I guess in the interest of time, let's move on to another topic for questioning, considering these year's estimates. Funding for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, could the minister or officials just provide a recap of what is provided to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan by the province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Froh: — Thank you for the question. In terms of our estimates this year, in our budget we have a total of \$385,000 that is nominally allocated within our budget for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan in our 2010-11 fiscal year; 285,000 is under our tripartite process, which is matched by federal funds from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; and the remaining \$100,000 is considered bilateral funding from the province, which funds those areas of common interest to both the province and the Métis Nation.

Mr. McCall: — In the two or in, I guess, both pools of funding is it, what are the strings attached to those dollars? Is it directed to . . . Being well familiar with the activities of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, I'm sure you're aware of the division between the executive and the activities that take place in the regions. Is there any sort of stipulation on the monies provided to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to divide them between the executive and the regional activities, or is it just for the executive to do with as they will?

Mr. Froh: — Money is provided subject to a work plan and budget that is submitted. When it comes to the bilateral portion of those funds, that that is then directed to the province where we would have to have concurrence before we enter into an agreement. And for the tripartite process, it is involving as well federal partners, in terms of a work plan and budget.

So the particulars aren't specific in terms of regional capacity in that sense, but what it does speak to is very specific deliverables under that work plan such as the emphasis in the last, in the last work plan was on governance reform. And it's something that we're still working on with the Métis Nation. And as well, there has also been some substantive work done in terms of electoral preparedness. At this time, there is no division of money per se between the regions and the executive, as I understand it. It's related to a work plan, delivering on the work plan in terms of deliverables.

Mr. McCall: — It's the executive that provides the work plan, and then that's concurred in or not with the ministry.

Mr. Froh: — The work plan is done internally within the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and that includes their governance structures within their constitution. And then once they deal internally, then we have our discussions with FNMR and with officials from INAC [Indian and Northern Affairs Canada] and the office of the federal interlocutor for the tripartite piece.

Mr. McCall: — In terms of the ministry's confidence that funds are being appropriately administered, allocated, what's the confidence level of the ministry as it relates to the monies provided to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan that they're being appropriately managed financially?

Mr. Froh: — Thank you for the question. What we have received from the Métis Nation on an annual basis, based on the work plan and the agreement that we enter into, is reports on a regular basis that have satisfied our requirements under their deliverables. As well, they've gone above and beyond what our requirements are and submitted an actual audited financial statement on an annual basis to us. They've shared that with our ministry. And at this point in time, whenever we've had questions or concerns, they've been there and they've been able to answer our questions.

We realize that there are issues within the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. At the same time, these are internal issues to the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. For the use of public funds, we do have requirements according to our funding agreements, and they are meeting those requirements.

Mr. McCall: — I thank the official for the response. I guess moving on through the questions, the launch of the task force on First Nations and Métis education and employment, if you could recap for the committee — and we'd had some discussion of this at the close of last round of estimates — when will that task force launch its work, and who is on that task force? Has that been decided of yet?

Mr. Crowe: — Thanks for the question. We are in the final stages of concluding some conversation, negotiations with the FSIN in terms of an agreement, including the composition of the task force, including the related activities. We're at the tail end of that. We hope that some announcements, our ministry and others will be able to share that information in the next little while. So we're fairly close to a point where we can share more information on that, but we're at the closing end of negotiations on that topic.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I can add to the answer that I've met with Chief Lonechild on Friday and that was one of the discussions that we had, one of the topics that we discussed, and we look forward to a series of meetings through the month here to set that out.

[15:15]

Mr. McCall: — Again this is a task force on First Nations and Métis education and employment. It's referred to as such in the budget documents and has certainly been discussed as such in hearings such as the one we're undertaking right now. Again

the decision to not include representation in the task force itself from any sort of Métis organization, I tend to think about if you flipped the coin and had a task force on First Nations and Métis education and employment and left it to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to take care of the interests of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, I'm sure they would have a few concerns about that.

So if the minister or officials could again describe for us the . . . On what grounds was the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or a representative Métis organization, what were the grounds for not including them on the task force that again is a task force on Métis and First Nations education and employment?

Mr. Crowe: — Thanks for that. I just wanted to state right at the outset, the task force itself doesn't preclude addressing some of the issues that confront Métis education. There are some . . . This is an initiative that has largely been led by the FSIN. And we don't, we certainly don't ask the FSIN to do work on behalf of the Métis. We would hope that in our conversations as we move forward that we ensure that there are, that we pay some attention to some of the issues that the Métis are dealing with in terms of Aboriginal achievement.

One of the topics that we have under the northern action plan is educated citizens. And certainly our Northern Affairs branch will be heading up some of the, some of the engagement with the northern leaders as well on education. I would also say that we have kept the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan informed of the activities over the last little while. They're comfortable with where we're at at this particular time.

The issue that confronts us regularly . . . I shouldn't say confronts us. The issue, the issue around education in the Aboriginal community is largely with First Nations in the sense that there are schools, First Nation schools, First Nation population, identified population, and it's important that we continue to have those conversations with those authorities that are providing education services to individuals, First Nation individuals. That's a big part of what we have to grapple with in addressing some of the education concerns and trying to alleviate some of the gaps that exist.

So the conversation does not exclude the Métis. We have had meaningful conversations, and we will continue to have those meaningful conversations and representation when necessary.

Mr. McCall: — So again, you know, I would expect that the task force that looks into First Nations and Métis education and employment would want to talk to the Métis. I guess the thing I'm having a hard time getting my head around is that if you've got a task force that is so named, if you've got a task force with a mandate to look into both First Nations and Métis education and employment, then why you wouldn't include the Métis on the task force.

Mr. Crowe: — We are not excluding the Métis. We've had reasonable conversation, meaningful conversation with the Métis leadership. There are issues that are confronting Aboriginal education, mainly around the First Nation population, considering that the First Nations have authorities in place to actually deliver education. And that's what we look forward to, is trying to find what are these long-term,

sustainable solutions around education, why the gaps exist, and to ensure that we work with those authorities that have mandates to deliver education to First Nations and a large part of the Aboriginal community. So again, we're not excluding the Métis. We've had reasonable conversation and we hope to continue the conversation, have representation from Métis Nation-Saskatchewan at key parts as we move forward on the task force.

Mr. McCall: — So the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan is totally in support of a task force on First Nations and Métis education and employment that doesn't include representation from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on the task force? Am I understanding that correctly?

Mr. Froh: — I'd just like to add to what the deputy minister has said, is that the task force is envisioned to a lot of great work I think, and it's meant to go out and speak to Métis and First Nations students, parents. It's going to go out and speak to teachers, anyone who has an interest in the achievement of Métis and First Nations people in this province.

What I can say is the task force has not been struck, in terms of established yet. And it is premature, I think, to determine who will be on that task force. It's envisioned that the task force will be formed to an expression of interest, and that Métis can identify an interest in sitting or participating in the task force or participating at the task force. That's my understanding in terms of identifying who will actually form the members of that task force.

Mr. McCall: — With thanks to the official, my understanding, based on what was said at the last meeting of this committee to consider FNMR estimates, was that the negotiations were under way to construct the task force and that those negotiations were with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and that it was not envisioned to have included on the task force the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

If the official is now opening the door to say that yes, maybe there will be somebody from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on the task force, I'd appreciate some clarity on that, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Froh: — The intention is not to mislead or misrepresent here. I believe that the statement previously stated still stands. The agreement is to establish a joint task force. We are negotiating with the FSIN towards that end, and there has been conversations with the Métis Nation as well in terms of the joint task force. So discussions continue and we hope to have an agreement soon.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I can add to the answer as well that when I've had discussions with the Métis Nation leadership in the province, the recognition is that the gap that we're trying to address is more severe on the First Nations side, and there was some recognition that that should be the group that we undertake the leading conversations with. And a commitment from our side was to ensure that the Métis Nation is fully apprised of those conversations, and at any time they are open to have discussions with us on this topic.

Mr. McCall: — Will there be representation from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on the task force itself? Not invited to

present. Not, you know, free for coffee or conversations or the like. Will there be representation from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on the task force for First Nations and Métis education and employment, yes or no?

Mr. Crowe: — I'd just like to clarify that neither FSIN or MNS, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, will be sitting necessarily on the task force. What will happen is that through an expression of interest . . . This is, and perhaps I'm getting a little bit further . . . We will be looking for individuals that would seek to sit on the task force, not necessarily representing FSIN or MNS, but those that are quite interested in Aboriginal education. They could be First Nations. They could be Métis. They could be non-Aboriginal altogether. But what we are looking for is experts that will be joining the task force and making recommendations and working with communities to find sustainable solutions.

Mr. McCall: — Well I guess this is different from what, you know, with respect to what was said at the last committee. And if it's evolved in a way that is more inclusive, then great. But this is different than what was said last meeting of this committee and certainly the understanding that was communicated pretty clearly as to who would not be on the task force and who would be on the task force. So again we await further clarification on who's going to be on the task force and who isn't going to be on the task force.

And I guess we were a little bit late getting started, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the indulgence in terms of the clock thus far. But I guess the last question I would ask, and this is a question that we have for the minister's colleague in the Ministry of Education.

As part of this budget, there was a pretty significant reorganization of the administrative capacity that resides in the Ministry of Education relating to Aboriginal education. And in terms of the activities of government around the task force or the monies put forward for different initiatives or funds, one of the important aspects to any of this of course, if you're going to both set an agenda and pursue that agenda, is that you have the human resources and the expertise within executive government to pursue those goals.

So we're struggling with a bit of cognitive dissonance on the opposition benches looking at what is proclaimed as a bold agenda for First Nations and Métis education on the one hand, but within the very Ministry of Education itself, a diminishing of the capacity to pursue goals related to Aboriginal education. So what role did the, as the lead ministry on First Nations and Métis issues, what role did the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations play in making this decision that saw the significant diminution of the role of Aboriginal education within the Ministry of Education itself?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. And certainly as part of this budget, we have seen a record amount of resources go towards First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan. Some \$167 million, I believe, was the number that came out around budget time, and that includes additional resources for education, for post-secondary education, for initiatives across government. And that's where we see a real benefit for First Nations people not only in FNMR

or in education or post-secondary, but in all of the groupings going together.

Certainly from our perspective, we have lobbied and continue to lobby all ministries to include further resources for First Nations and Métis people. We've been largely successful in that process, but certainly we don't see ourselves micromanaging within certain ministries. Resources move from time to time from different areas to focus on different things, and we know from a global perspective that those resources are indeed a record number at this time.

Mr. McCall: — I thank the minister for the response. I guess the problem that we have on the opposition bench is it's one thing to announce funds and resources on the one hand, but if at the same time you cut the administrative capacity that fits those resources into a meaningful game plan or helps to make goals, then it's not a big surprise when a year later on, perhaps, the funds haven't been spent or that we're no further towards the goal. So when we see this government ballyhooing First Nations and Métis education as a central goal in this budget while at the same time cutting back the Aboriginal education branch of the Ministry of Education, we think that that's a problem. We think that's a big problem in terms of meeting goals that this government sets out, as it should, around First Nations and Métis education attainment.

[15:30]

So as the First Nations Métis Relations minister, I appreciate that you're one in an Executive Council making collective decisions, but it's hard to look at something like this and figure out how it's really going to add up when you cut the very administrative capacity that helps to advance the cause of First Nations and Métis education right in the Ministry of Education. So we'll be looking to see how the reality catches up with the proclaimed intent in the budget speech and the communications around the budget.

But with that, Mr. Chair, I thank the committee for its indulgence for the additional minutes that we've had on the back end of this, especially given the later start time. But, Mr. Chair, I thank you for that and, through you to all committee members, that we might consider these issues more fully. And with that, I'd also thank the minister and officials for joining us here again today and would indicate that we are willing at this time to entertain voting the estimates for First Nations and Métis Relations.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. McCall. Seeing no more questions, we will proceed with the voting on vote no. 25, the First Nations and Métis Relations, central management and services, subvote (FN01) in the amount of \$3,303,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Gaming agreements, subvote (FN03) in the amount \$65,171,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Northern affairs division, subvote

(FN08) in the amount of \$4,364,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. First Nations and Métis affairs division, subvote (FN09) in the amount of \$9,365,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$7,000. This is for information purposes only. No vote is required. For First Nations and Métis, vote no. 25 in the amount of \$82,203,000, 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, 2012, the following sum for First Nations and Métis Relations in the amount of \$82,203,000.

Mr. Brkich: — I so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

We'll now continue with vote no. 163, First Nations and Métis Relations . . .

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Chair, if I may . . .

The Chair: — Oh yes, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Just one question from officials here on the amount of \$82,203,000, I believe you said.

The Chair: — Is there a discrepancy?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — [Inaudible] . . . All right. Thanks, Mr. Chair, for the clarification. Never hurts to double-check. Thank you.

The Chair: — I'm glad to see you're watching things, Mr. Minister. Kudos to you.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — [Inaudible] . . . that was millions. It was in the thousands, but when you sit in this chair, whether it's hundreds, thousands, or cents, it's got to be right.

The Chair: — Well thank you for that.

**General Revenue Fund
Lending and Investing Activities
First Nations and Métis Relations
Vote 163**

The Chair: — Vote no. 163, First Nations and Métis Relations, loans under *The Economic and Co-operative Development Act*, *The Northern Economic Development Regulations*, subvote (FN01) in the amount of \$350,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. First Nations and Métis Relations, vote 163, \$350,000. 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, 2012, the following sum for First Nations and Métis Relations in the amount of \$350,000.

Mr. Chisholm: — I so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and thank you to your officials. Mr. Minister, is there any closing remarks you'd like to make?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Just to thank the committee for their indulgence, to thank the members of the opposition, both the critic and his colleagues for the many questions that we fielded and the good conversations that we had last time we met, and this time as well. So thank you to the member and his colleagues and to all of my officials. And we look forward to a very exciting and challenging year going forward with First Nations and Métis Relations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister Cheveldayoff. This committee will take a five-minute recess to set up for the estimates of Minister of Municipal Affairs. Thank you.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

**General Revenue Fund
Municipal Affairs
Vote 30**

Subvote (MA01)

The Chair: — Well, welcome back to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee. We're sitting now with Minister Hickie in consideration of estimates for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, vote no. 30. Mr. Hickie, if you would like to introduce your officials. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's always a pleasure to be back here in this committee. And to my left I have my deputy minister, Van Isman; to my right, Mr. Keith Comstock, assistant deputy minister. A little further to the left is Wanda Lamberti, executive director of central management services. Marj Abel, a director of financial planning, central management services, at the back table; along with Kyle Toffan, director of grants administration. And I have in the back corner, Mr. John Edwards, executive director of policy development. And also with us today is Wade Armstrong, chairman of Saskatchewan Municipal Board.

And if I can have the indulgence of the members, Wade is also going to be retiring from the SMB [Saskatchewan Municipal Board] later this year. And he did a great job last time at

committee, and I didn't have a chance to thank him for that hard work. I, of course, singled out Mr. Russ Krywulak, but I want to thank Wade for his years of dedication and service to the various governments, to the province, and for helping all the municipalities in their leadership throughout these years to ensure that they were always on the right mark, moving forward with their plans and financial issues. And we're going to miss you, but I hope you enjoy your retirement. Like I say it's later this year, so any questions about SMB again, he's here to answer them. That's it. Thank you. No preamble, we'll get right into it.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister Hickie. We're looking for questions. Ms. Higgins.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. In 75-minute debate, this was on March 17th, there was, the debate topic was voting eligibility requirements. And the member from Cannington, Mr. D'Autremont, and I quote out of *Hansard*:

This change, Mr. Speaker, was originated by SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] with a request to the government that these changes be put in place for voter ID [identification] to become part of the requirements necessary to vote in municipal elections. We responded positively as a government to that request, Mr. Speaker.

And that is on page 6771 of *Hansard*, where Mr. D'Autremont clearly identifies that SUMA requested these changes be made. But yet in other communications that I have seen, it says — it's an email in particular, a question that was sent to SUMA — "The decision to include amendments regarding voter identification was arrived at exclusively by the provincial government." Could we get some clarification as to who actually requested or initiated this legislation, please?

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you for the . . . I mean this, we'll talk about this even though this is estimates. I understand this has got nothing to do with the budget, but I respect that. There's been latitude given in the past, so we'll do that. The member doesn't want to put this to committee, I guess, to talk about it, so we'll talk about it here. It's fine.

And particularly that relationship about SUMA, and the indication thereof that they wish to have this requirement, came out of two cities — Saskatoon and Regina — of which they had voted resolutions at council meetings requiring or wishing to have voter ID requirements in municipal elections. Each of the councils had raised issues in regards to the ward system to ensure the integrity of a process whereby they would ensure that the votes cast were applicable to their particular ward system and they would have identification to make sure those people were living in that ward.

So when you talk about SUMA, they are members of SUMA. So the members of SUMA were consulted about this, the directors and the CEO [chief executive officer]. And as part of the provisions under the LGEA [*The Local Government Election Act*], there were other additions they wished as well. They looked at, they wanted to talk about terms of service, some polling I believe . . . not polling, sorry. Issues regarding advanced polling as such. I'll let John Edwards finish this up as

well with some more details, but the particular issue with SUMA is that there are two larger, two larger cities wanted this to come forth, and then it was brought up to government.

So of course government does in fact bring forth the Acts. You understand that, that we look at those. We review the Acts on a regular basis as you did too. So with that in mind, we pushed forth with the, forward with the issue of looking at various parts of the Act to change, and this was one provision that we wanted to have in it. So after talking to Saskatoon and Regina . . . So I'll let Mr. Edwards talk about some of the other things that were put forth in the Act as well.

[15:45]

Mr. Edwards: — The main other initiatives in the Bill 162 are relating to term of office. There was a very strong request from the municipal sector, in particular the urban municipalities, to change to a four-year term of office, and the Bill of course does that.

Ms. Higgins: — Well the only, the only resolution that I can find from SUMA is that specific one which addressed the terms of office to go from three years to four years, and that was clearly sponsored by the SUMA board of directors and spoke to the issue of terms.

So then what you tell me is that it wasn't SUMA that put forward the request for photo ID [identification] and more defined or definite identification for municipalities, as Mr. D'Autremont stated in this Assembly. It was actually a member of SUMA or two that may have made a request to you at some point in time?

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you for the question. Of course prior to me being the minister, and over the years, SUMA has had participation in the city mayors' caucus. And in this case, I'm informed that the particular cities that requested this, it was discussed at the city mayor caucus, and so representation was there.

Now SUMA has in fact talked to the officials and did in fact indicate that they aren't opposed to this as part of the general membership of SUMA within the actual context of their discussions. So when it came forward from that working group, and although there's only one resolution, as I understand it . . . And I agree there only was one resolution. There was never a resolution about this. However, the two city mayors from Regina and Saskatoon brought it to the city mayors' caucus, SUMA was there, and there were other discussions that came out of that with officials from Municipal Affairs.

Ms. Higgins: — So you're saying then it was a request of SUMA in the way you view it? That because SUMA was present at the meeting at the city mayors' table, that somehow a conversation makes this an official request of SUMA's as Mr. D'Autremont stated?

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — I'll say that SUMA was supportive of this as business arising of the two largest cities in the province, the two mayors and their passing resolutions at city council meetings.

Ms. Higgins: — Then in clarification, in an email from SUMA when the question was asked, and it states, "However, the decision to include amendments regarding voter identification was arrived at exclusively by the provincial government," obviously SUMA does not view itself as having recommended voter ID be an issue in this Bill.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Well, Mr. Chair, I guess if the member would like to table that particular email . . . I won't discuss innuendo or possibility of something unless I can see it. I can't make those comments. I'm sure that member opposite, when she was a minister, wouldn't want to respond to those either without any direct review of it.

So what I can say is, as I've already answered, and we know now that as . . . I can table the letter today for the member if she hasn't got this already. It's cc'd to her. It's dated May 9th, 2011, addressed to me, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Room 307 Legislative Building:

Dear Minister Hickie:

Re: Provisions of Bill 162, (LGEA) regarding Voter ID

I'll read this into record:

On behalf of the SUMA Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your immediate attention regarding our concerns with the voter ID provisions within Bill 162, an Act to amend the *Local Government Election Act*.

I am satisfied that your ministry fully understands our position and I look forward to working with you and your officials to address these concerns within the regulations needed to implement this provision.

In addition, I believe SUMA may have misunderstood the process to affect any change regarding this provision. I have since been informed by SUMA staff that this matter has been dealt with and that SUMA is content with the outcome.

Once again, thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Allan Earle
Mayor Allan Earle
President

And I'll table this for the member opposite without any issues. So if you're on a fishing expedition regarding the whole breadth and scope of the Bill, I'd advise the member to make it go to committee and we'll have a nice open discussion at committee. This isn't a budget Bill. So this is about estimates regarding budgets. So we can keep on for a few minutes, but I was told this is estimates, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Yes, thank you. And if you would table that, I'd appreciate it. Yes, we will confine our remarks to the estimates, please.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Chair, I would say that in discussions that are ongoing with Bill 162, in information that is posted on the website with the discussions on the regulations that are being proposed for Bill 162, and also in the letters that have gone back and forth between the minister himself and SUMA when the minister is committing to funding for training of returning officers for the municipalities, also education, I would argue that this does touch on budget and the funding that is appropriated to Municipal Affairs because this is part of expenditures that he will see out of this year's budget.

So I believe it is part of the discussion that we should be having. We're not talking about . . . Oh well now the member across the aisle is kind of making faces, I guess. Maybe he's not . . . Are you serious about doing education? Are you serious about training returning officers for this Bill? Because those are my understanding of commitments that have been made. And I'm trying to figure out what the lead-up to this Bill is and where the request for the voter ID come from. If it comes from the government, just say so.

I mean that's what we're looking for. Because if it's obviously . . . What the questions that have come forward from SUMA, that was not one of their requests. And it's obviously a big push not only in Bill 162, but also in 161. Did the big city mayors request it be provincial also? I don't know. I'm just looking for some clarification because there's a number of conflicting statements that are coming out of a number of areas.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I can tell the member opposite is that, as you would probably know by examining the Bill, moving forward, that the next election for the municipal sector will be, municipalities will be 2012. So within this particular budget, we had no allocation to have any funding requested for this in the '11-12 allocation. We would be asking for that in the '12-13 allocation.

This is simply a procedural process whereby through receiving a letter from the city of Saskatoon asking for changes, notified by the city of Regina there was some, a resolution passed to the effect that they wished to have voter ID, and after what would I would characterize as extensive consultations and discussions with the city mayors' caucus and SUMA board of directors, at the time and times, there was an overall discussion about integrity of a process that I believe is welcomed and will be welcome in the province.

We just went through a federal election whereby we saw provisions of this, the voter ID, utilized. People were accepting of it. I know when I went vote, I had brought all my identification. I noticed on the Elections Saskatchewan, Elections Canada card that required photos and things I could bring, so I did. I brought the required identification. Wasn't an issue for me.

We know that right now that we have various things moving forward, and this particular Act amendment has various components of it. So we have two large city mayors, the two largest cities with their mayors and council, with the resolutions asking for this along with a few other issues they wanted to be addressed as well. So does the government bring forth these changes? Absolutely. We have stakeholder groups. SUMA's a stakeholder group. The big city mayor or the city mayors'

caucus is a stakeholder group within SUMA's representation membership.

So I mean the member seems to be fishing for something. I look at it as being an encompassing blanket. If it's the city mayors' caucus discusses it, the two big city mayors have passed resolutions with their city councils asking for this provision, SUMA's at the table during the big city mayors' caucus meetings, I look at it as being pretty simple. They've all talked about it. They brought it forth to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as a recommendation, and during their regular process of reviewing the Acts and implementation of changing Acts, like the member did opposite when she was a minister — I would think because I wasn't here at the time — but those kind of things come forward and the government considers those after extensive consultations. We were given counsel to ask for those changes, which we've done.

Now having said that, the regulations that are going to be part of this Act, as the member opposite will be very much aware, will operationalize the entire Act itself. There again, these won't require any extensive spending in this year's budget or any spending in this year's budget. So it's not a budget-related item. So the operationalization of the Act through the regulations, through the consultation that'll take place with SUMA, as the letter I've just read out and it's been tabled for the members of the committee, through extensive stakeholder consultations and as have already been started, the draft regulations are already on the website.

We have had very little or no input until recently about the regulations related to the voter ID specifics. I've said in the media, I've said in the House as *Hansard* will indicate, that we are going to look at doing this to be very much inclusive, not restrictive. And we will turn to the stakeholder group to make the regulations operationalize the Act, but we won't be passing . . . This won't become effective until we actually do extensive consultations. And on that basis, any education required, any pamphlets, brochures, any education for deputy returning officers, would be tied into the '12-13 budget allocation. As you'll see, there's no allocation in this year's budget for this specifically.

Ms. Higgins: — Okay. Any questions?

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Chair, could you indulge me one question?

The Chair: — Mr. Quennell.

Mr. Quennell: — It's only because the minister used the word extensive consultations three times, once to refer to the development of regulations, but twice to refer to the development of the legislation that's obviously a little contentious.

In the extensive consultations he refers to with SUMA, did they ever use the term, voter intimidation, which is the term they use in their letter to the minister of April 19, 2011, that they are concerned that the voter ID requirements — which they were told by officials in the ministry they could not have changed here; there was no time left in this session, which is just not the case, Mr. Chair — but to get back to my question, in those

extensive consultations the minister refers to, did nobody at SUMA use the term that they used in the letter to the minister of April 19, 2011, there was a concern that the photo ID requirements that are still before this Assembly, proposed before this Assembly, may likely cause voter intimidation?

I know the term voter intimidation is not in the letter that the minister just filed. My question is, prior to April 19th, in the extensive consultations that the minister refers to, was that term used? Because that's quite a strong term for the president of SUMA to use in a letter as he did on April 19th, 2011.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you for that. Thank you for the question. And I will tell you that as the minister, after being appointed in June of 2010, with various contacts with Mr. Earle, with Mr. Mougeot, I was never informed. And at the SUMA convention and milling with SUMA membership and discussing issues pertaining to the resolutions with SUMA membership and my own city mayor, no. No one's ever talked about intimidation to me.

But I will enlighten the committee members with my deputy minister speaking to this issue of what happened with this whole letter, the first letter, the meeting that took place, the subsequent misunderstanding of how the process is working and where it's going to go. And he'll be able to, I think, clarify some of the issues that you may have on that where the intimidation comment came out of.

[16:00]

Mr. Isman: — Thank you. First of all, and I've checked with my colleague John Edwards, the head of our policy development branch, like to point out that the term voter intimidation, the letter that you have referenced in April, is the first time that we have seen that term. And interestingly enough, it's also the first time that the concept was conveyed to us. So no, we hadn't heard it previously.

As relates to the issue that you also alluded to, with regards to an opportunity to amend the Bill that has gone forward, there was reference made to the meeting that I had had with SUMA's CEO, Mr. Mougeot, and my colleague Mr. Edwards. The three of us were at that meeting. And we did talk about if there was an amendment that was needed, which there wasn't, by the way, because they are supportive of the legislation as it has been presented. We did talk about . . . Well, they are.

I would like to advise you that the discussion that we had with regards to a potential amendment of the Bill specifically revolved around the process that we at Municipal Affairs do consultations by. So before we bring forward legislation, before we bring forward regulations, we actually do quite extensive consultation with our stakeholders. The discussion that we had had with Mr. Mougeot was that, you know, we don't have the ability or the time, if there was an amendment that was necessary, to go out and do extensive consultations as is our norm, and then see something concluded prior to the 19th of May.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — If I can add as well please, Mr. Chair, I noticed the member from Saskatoon Meewasin was shaking his head at my official. And maybe that's a form of intimidation

towards the officials; I'm not sure if that's what you're trying. But in a letter dated April 27th, 2011, in regard to the deputy minister talking about support SUMA has for this Bill moving forward and the letter April 27th, 2011 that I mentioned in the House during question period, and I tabled in the House, the third paragraph says:

SUMA's Chief Executive Officer and your Deputy Minister met on Tuesday, April 26, to discuss my letter and SUMA's concerns regarding Bill 162. Based on the outcomes of that meeting, SUMA believes that the concerns raised in the April 19 letter can now be effectively addressed through further collaborative work on the associated regulations. Therefore, SUMA is prepared to withdraw its concerns regarding Bill 162 pending your agreement on the following principles:

That the ministry and SUMA will continue to collaborate on the reworking of the draft regulations;

That the regulations will be constructed to limit the disclosure of personal voter information to candidates and their aides at the polling stations;

That the list of potential ID will be restructured to ensure the integrity of the voting process;

That the ministry and SUMA collaborate to develop and support a plan for training Deputy Returning Officers regarding the new process; and

That the ministry work with SUMA to develop and support a plan of public education regarding voter ID requirements for urban elections.

Continuing on with the quote:

Assuming you are in agreement with the principles above, SUMA is satisfied that the interests of urban governments can be addressed and we would offer our support for the passing of Bill 162. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. The constructive and effective government-to-government relationship we have is built on finding mutually agreeable solutions such as this. We appreciate very much your ongoing efforts on behalf of the 82% of the citizens living in urban Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

Allan Earle
Mayor Allan Earle
President

So when the deputy minister was discussing how we have extensive consultations and that SUMA was supportive of this particular Act moving forward now, we have a letter from April 27th that the member opposite is aware of. And now I've read in the facts of the letter for the committee.

I've also read the letter from May 9th to the committee as well, with the facts stated from Mr. Earle. So not that the member opposite needs to answer questions, nor is it my role to ask a question of the member opposite in committee, but in both

those cases it's very clear to me — and I'm not as educated as the member opposite, mind you — but that this in fact shows support from SUMA as directed from its president, Mr. Allan Earle.

So unless the member opposite's got some particular correspondence he wishes to table that says otherwise from specific members of SUMA, which I gladly will look at and the ministry officials will look at and we will work through the collaborative efforts with the SUMA board of directors, the CEO.

As I understand it, we have two letters documenting support for the Bill, Mr. Chair. So I'm very happy if this particular Bill goes to committee, we can have a lot more of this discussion. But again, and you indulged the member opposite, so I'm very happy to answer his question and concerns.

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Chair, just because of a number of issues that were raised, first of all, I trust that the deputy minister knows that when I shake my head it's because I don't agree, not because I'm trying to intimidate anybody. I think the minister got a little carried away.

And secondly, I think we will continue to agree to disagree. It is clear to us that SUMA would not have been extensively consulted on legislation that they then assay raises a concern of voter intimidation. It's also clear to us that SUMA was left with the understanding that the Bill couldn't be amended. Now we're told that's because of the extensive consultations that amendments would have to have. But of course the Bill didn't have those extensive consultations, or SUMA would have had the opportunity to advise the ministry that they had concerns about the voter ID requirements.

So any subsequent approval of the Bill, while SUMA accepts that the Bill is going to go forward and all the good things that they asked for and the minister has agreed to are all good things. And we agree with those things, particularly if there's not going to be any amendments to the Bill. What SUMA has asked for of course is very important. We would prefer it be in the Bill. Clearly, it's not going to be. We hope that it's in the regulations.

But just to be clear that although I may disagree with the interpretation that's been put on the correspondence with the minister and maybe perhaps even with his officials, certainly, Mr. Chair, I wasn't seeking to intimidate anybody here. Thank you.

The Chair: — Thank you. Is there any questions regarding the estimates of vote no. 30? Seeing no further questions, we will commence with the voting.

Vote 30, the Municipal Affairs, central management and services, subvote (MA01) in the amount of \$4,804,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Municipal relations, subvote (MA08) in the amount of \$7,445,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Municipal financial assistance, subvote (MA07) in the amount of \$317,229,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Federal municipal assistance, subvote (MA10) in the amount of \$57,799,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Saskatchewan Municipal Board, subvote (MA06) in the amount of \$1,391,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Municipal Affairs, vote 30 in the amount of \$388,668,000. 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, 2012, the following sum for Municipal Affairs in the amount of \$388,668,000.

Ms. Ross. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — What was the total again?

The Chair: — The total amount was \$388,668,000.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Ours is 713 million.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I appreciate your officials being that sharp to be watching everything. Mr. Minister, this concludes the hearings. Did you want to have any comments closing?

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to thank the members on both sides, and I want to thank the officials of Municipal Affairs who put up with me since June and have done a great job in putting the budget together. And to of course Wade and to Russ, it's been educational for me. It's been a great time being able to serve with you two. And you're not going anywhere yet, Wade, so I got you for a few more months, so that's good. But to everybody, thank you very much for all your help, and thanks for the time.

The Chair: — Thank you, Minister Hickie, and thank you to the officials. This committee will now recess for five minutes while we get ready in consideration of Bill No. 169.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

**General Revenue Fund
Corrections, Public Safety and Policing
Vote 73**

The Chair: — Well welcome back to the Intergovernmental

Affairs and Justice Committee. As we continue, we are going to conduct the voting on some of the main estimates starting out with vote no. 73, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, the central management and services, subvote (CP01) in the amount of \$24,977,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Adult corrections, subvote (CP04) in the amount of \$103,936,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Young offenders program, subvote (CP07) in the amount of 51,710,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Public safety, subvote (CP06) in the amount of 19,749,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Policing services, subvote (CP10) in the amount of \$167,482,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Provincial public safety telecommunications network, (CP11) in the amount of zero. This is for informational purposes only; no need to vote. Major capital projects, subvote (CP09) in the amount of \$10,700,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of 2,401,000, this is for information purposes only. No vote is required. Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, vote 73 in the amount of \$378,554,000, 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, 2012, the following sums for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in the amount of \$378,554,000.

Thank you, Mr. Elhard has moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Corrections, Public Safety and Policing
Vote 73**

The Chair: — In supplementary estimates, vote 73, Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, public safety, subvote (CP06) in the amount of \$13,187,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Correction, Public Safety and Policing, vote 73, in \$13,187,000. 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, 2011, the following sum for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in the amount of \$13,187,000.

Mr. Elhard: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Elhard moves. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Justice and Attorney General
Vote 3**

The Chair: — Vote no. 3 for Justice and the Attorney General. Central management and services, subvote (JU01) in the amount of \$21,092,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Courts and civil justice, subvote (JU03) in the amount of \$36,947,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Marketplace regulation, subvote (JU07) in the amount of \$447,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Legal and policy services, subvote (JU04) in the amount of \$28,151,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Community justice, subvote (JU05) in the amount of \$19,821,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Boards and commissions, subvote (JU08) in the amount of \$26,254,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Courts capital, subvote (JU11) in the amount of \$17,892,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$700,000. This is for informational purposes only, and no vote is required.

Justice and the Attorney General, vote 3, in the amount of \$150,604,000. 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, 2012, the following sums for Justice and Attorney General in the amount of \$150,604,000.

Mr. Chisholm: — So move.

The Chair: — Mr. Chisholm moved. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

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

The Chair: — In supplementary, for vote no. 3, Justice and Attorney General. Courts and civil justice, subvote (JU03) in the amount of \$267,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Legal and policy services, subvote (JU04) in the amount of \$1,915,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Community service, subvote (JU05) in the amount of \$360,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Community justice, subvote (JU05) in the amount of \$360,000, and that was agreed. Boards and Commissions, subvote (JU08) in the amount of \$454,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Courts capital, subvote (JU11) in the amount of \$775,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Justice and Attorney General, vote 3 in the amount of \$3,771,000, 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, 2011, the following sums for Justice and Attorney General in the amount of \$3,771,000.

Mr. Elhard. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Office of the Provincial Capital Commission
Vote 85**

The Chair: — The main estimates for vote no. 85, Office of the Provincial Capital Commission, central management and services, subvote (PC01) in the amount of \$2,236,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. capital commission operations, subvote (PC02) in the amount of \$7,577,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The Office of the Provincial Capital Commission, vote 85 in the amount of \$9,813,000, I would now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for 12 months ending March 31st 2012, the following sums for the Office of the Provincial Capital Commission in the amount of \$9,813,000.

Mr. Elhard. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates — March
Office of the Provincial Capital Commission
Vote 85**

The Chair: — Carried. In the supplementary vote no. 85, The Office of the Provincial Capital Commission, Capital Commission Operations, subvote (PC02) in the amount of \$100,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The Office of the Provincial Capital Commission vote 85, \$100,000. 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, 2011, the following sums for the Office of the Provincial Capital Commission in the amount of \$100,000.

Mr. Brkich. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

**General Revenue Fund
Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Vote 27**

The Chair: — In the main estimates, vote no. 27 for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, central management and services, subvote (TC01) in the amount of \$9,718,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Tourism, subvote (TC13) in the amount of \$14,681,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Parks, subvote (TC12) in the amount of \$26,476,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Building communities, subvote (TC11) in the amount of \$5,692,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Culture, subvote (TC03) in the amount of \$29,423,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Heritage, subvote (TC07) in the amount of \$8,885,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Sports, recreation, and stewardship, subvote (TC15) in the amount of \$2,349,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Community Initiatives Fund, subvote (TC06) in the amount of \$9,474,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Saskatchewan Communications Network, subvote (TC08) in the amount of zero dollars. This is for information purposes only; no vote is required. Amortization of capital assets in the amount of \$2,442,000, this is also for information purposes only. No vote is required.

For Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, vote no. 27, in the amount of \$106,698,000, I will now ask a member to move the following resolution:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for 12 months ending March 31st, 2012, the following sums for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport in the amount of \$106,698,000.

Mr. Chisholm. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. We will now have a motion to move a motion to present reports to the Assembly, the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice's 10th report. Committee members, you have before you a draft of the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. We require a member to move the following motion:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on

Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Mr. Brkich: — I so move.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, committee.

Bill No. 169 — *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*

Clause 1

The Chair: — We will now move on to the consideration of Bill No. 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*. I welcome the minister and his officials. Minister Morgan, if you would like to introduce your officials, please do.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am joined today by Dave Wild, Chair, Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission; Mary Ellen Wellsch, senior Crown counsel, legislative services branch; and Eric Greene, director, consumer protection branch.

I am pleased to be able to offer opening remarks concerning Bill 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*. Mr. Chair, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011* will merge the functions performed by the consumer protection branch with the functions carried out by the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. Under this legislation, the programming and staff of the consumer protection branch will be transferred to the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission.

The fee revenues and related expenditures of the branch will be handled through the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Fund. This is the fund that was established two years ago to receive the revenues paid to the commission and from which all payments for salaries and expenses are paid. Excess revenues are paid to the GRF [General Revenue Fund].

Mr. Chair, it makes sense for the consumer protection branch to be part of the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. These two organizations share many of the same objectives and history. Both the commission and the consumer protection branch focus on protecting consumers from unlawful, deceitful, and unscrupulous practices in the marketplace. These practices can occur equally in the financial services sector and in the general consumer marketplace. Both organizations have effective mechanisms for guarding against unfair practices.

Mr. Chair, consumer protection programming will benefit from sharing its and the commission's regulatory expertise and strategic focus in areas such as consumer education. In light of the importance of consumer protection to society, this legislation will emphasize the government's focus on and involvement with consumer protection initiatives of all kinds.

With those opening remarks, Mr. Chair, I welcome your

questions and the questions of the committee regarding Bill 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is there any questions from the committee? Mr. Quennell.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to start by — I know we usually end this way — but I want to start by thanking the officials for their attendance, especially in light of the fact that we are starting well after our scheduled start time and . . .

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — And well after our planned end time.

Mr. Quennell: — Well no, not . . . Yes, that's true too, or pretty close to it. No, that is true. And also that the officials . . . And I don't . . . I shouldn't presume to apologize on behalf of the committee, but I also appreciate that the officials are . . . We're starting late and the officials are here late because they had to sit through the voting off of estimates for a number of departments or ministries, only one of which was Justice.

All that said, thank you for being here. And I think maybe we'll gain a little bit of time, that we may not have to take the full half hour that was scheduled for the Bill. And that's about all I can do.

In respect to this folding in of the consumer protection branch into the Financial Services Commission, we discussed this briefly in estimates. And I think that's one of the reasons we can be a little briefer here today, because we covered these questions. But in estimates, the information was imparted that consumer protection branch has a large education role. And if we could have some assurance as a committee and as legislators that that education role can be properly carried out by the Financial Services Commission, which I appreciate has an educational role but its work is primarily regulatory and even prosecutorial to a certain extent, and investigative, and is not primarily seen as a public education body. And to a certain extent, this might be new work for the Financial Services Commission, and I would hope that we could be assured that we're not going to see any loss in the ability to educate consumers about their rights.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — You know, the budgets become blended, and they come over. I can assure you there's no reduction in number of positions that are there. The consumer protection branch comes in its entirety.

If anything, having the benefit of the SFSC [Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission] staff as a resource for fielding questions or when referrals need to be made, I would hope that the educational component will not only not be diminished but may actually be enhanced. Oh, okay. I understand that Mr. Wild has a better answer than I do.

Mr. Wild: — A supplementary answer, not a better answer.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — A supplementary answer.

Mr. Wild: — Yes, I can. I also can connect with the new minister's assurance. In fact we have acknowledged that consumer education is an important role for our commission.

As you mentioned, we do spend a lot of resources on compliance, on enforcement, but we've come to the realization that perhaps prevention also could be a very effective regulatory tool, and to that end in this last fiscal year we were able to hire our first education communications person. So we have now a dedicated staff to communications that we can utilize in helping consumer protection as well.

Mr. Quennell: — I think that was a worthwhile exchange. My next question perhaps doesn't directly affect this Bill or this Bill doesn't directly affect the question, but since we are discussing Financial Services Commission and we have Mr. Wild here, the minister and Mr. Wild may recently have read a comment by Neil Reynolds in *The Globe and Mail*. Mr. Reynolds is a business columnist in *The Globe and Mail* and I would say, on the economic matters which he writes on, quite more laissez-faire and conservative than me, and I won't be sure of this, but I suspect maybe even more conservative and laissez-faire than the minister. And Mr. Reynolds wrote a recent column about the value of the passport system, and he's very skeptical about centralizing security regulation nationally, as has been the project of successive national governments of two different stripes, and is a strong believer in the co-operative passport model that currently exists. And I note that because that was the position of a social democratic government in Saskatchewan as well the position of Mr. Reynolds.

Nothing in this Bill, I take it, impacts the passport system. This is entirely to do with consumer regulation. And again the minister can have an opportunity, if he wants to take one, to advise if the government's commitment to what we call the passport system of financial regulation has wavered since we last discussed it.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Nothing in this Bill would affect the government's position with regard to either the passport system or a move towards a single regulator. The matter's been argued before the Supreme Court in the last two or three weeks, so I think it would be inappropriate to make much of a comment on that. The position the province took was to support the province's jurisdiction in that area. Having said that, if it's appropriate to have a contractual relationship that would develop a national regulator or some kind of shared jurisdiction, there's certainly some room to have that discussion. Given the nature of the global collapse and the nature of international markets, we think the systemic risk is such that it certainly bears having some further discussion.

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Chair, I don't have any more questions for the minister or his officials.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Quennell.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Chair, before we vote it off, I would like to join with Mr. Quennell in having thanked the officials for coming out. I realize there was some shuffling on the times. And we appreciate and value the support we get from the officials, whether we're in government or whether we're in opposition, so we thank them.

The Chair: — Yes. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and thank you, officials. And I apologize for the work that comes before us, but I guess that's the work that comes before us.

The item before the committee is Bill No. 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*. We will now consider clause 1, short title. Mr. Minister . . . No I guess we've done that. Thank you. Seeing there's no more questions, clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[Clause 1 agreed to.]

[Clauses 2 to 12 inclusive agreed to.]

The Chair: — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts the following: Bill No. 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011*. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I would ask a member to move that we report Bill No. 169, *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment.

Mr. Brkich: — I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Brkich moves that. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and thank you to the committee. That officially concludes our hearings this afternoon. We'll need a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brkich moves to adjourn. This committee now stands adjourned. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 16:38.]