



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. Doyle Vermette, Deputy Chair
Cumberland

Mr. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert
Wood River

Mr. Russ Marchuk
Regina Douglas Park

Mr. Kevin Phillips
Melfort

Mr. Warren Steinley
Regina Walsh Acres

Mr. Corey Tochor
Saskatoon Eastview

[The committee met at 18:58.]

The Chair: — Well good evening and welcome to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. We are meeting this evening for consideration of some of our estimates. I want to welcome our committee members. My name is Warren Michelson. I am the Chair of the committee. Other committee members are: Doyle Vermette is the Deputy Chair; Yogi Huyghebaert, Russ Marchuk, Kevin Phillips, Warren Steinley, and Corey Tochor.

We have two substitutions this evening. Sitting in for Doyle Vermette is Cathy Sproule and sitting in for Kevin Phillips is Paul Merriman. Welcome, everyone. And this evening the committee will be considering the estimates for the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. Before I begin I would just like to remind the officials to introduce themselves when they're speaking for the purposes of Hansard.

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

Subvote (PC01)

The Chair: — We'll now begin the consideration of vote no. 27, Parks, Culture and Sport, central management and services, subvote (PC01). Welcome, Minister Doherty, and your officials. Minister Doherty, if you would like to introduce your officials, and if you've got any opening remarks you certainly may proceed with them.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Sure. Well thank you, Mr. Chair, and good evening to fellow committee members. Good evening to the official opposition critic, Ms. Sproule. And I would like to make some introductory remarks this evening, Mr. Chair, but before I do, let me introduce officials that are joining me here this evening.

I have to my immediate right Lin Gallagher, the deputy minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Provincial Capital Commission. To my immediate right I have Twyla MacDougall, the assistant deputy minister. Behind me I have Nancy Cherney, assistant deputy minister. Gerry Folk, the executive director of cultural planning and development branch is back there. Darin Banadyga, executive director of sport, recreation and stewardship; Lynette Halvorsen is sitting right over my left shoulder, director of corporate services. Bob McEachern, the executive director of parks services; Leanne Thera, executive director of policy, planning and evaluation; and Byron Davis, director of the facilities branch is sitting back there as well as Jason Wall, my chief of staff.

I think I have covered everybody, Mr. Chair, so I am looking forward to a vigorous discussion this evening and answering as many questions as possible and having officials assist me. But before I do, if I could just make some opening comments, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Please proceed.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — As we know, the purpose of growth is to secure a better quality of life for all of the people here in the province of Saskatchewan, but we need to manage that growth. But we also want to encourage further growth. This year's provincial budget for the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, which also has responsibility for the Provincial Capital Commission, does just that. We have invested in arts, in culture, in our provincial parks, in sport and recreation, and in heritage. Because we just talked about our record population growth in Saskatchewan that has reached 1.117 million and change, I'd like to talk about some further things with respect to our budget here this evening.

Funding to provincial parks will increase by 4.6 per cent this year. This includes capital and maintenance spending. That brings us to a record of \$14.9 million for upgrades and new construction projects in fiscal year '14-15.

Our plan for '14-15 also includes capital improvements to enhance visitor experiences in our provincial parks such as expanding and upgrading campground electrical systems at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park, Narrow Hills, Echo Valley, Great Blue Heron Provincial Park, and Makwa Lake Provincial Park; building two new campground service centres at Echo Valley and Greenwater Lake Provincial Park; continuing improvements to potable water systems at Saskatchewan Landing and Pike Lake provincial parks; improving wastewater systems at Duck Mountain and Buffalo Pound provincial parks; building a new visitor reception centre at Narrow Hills Provincial Park; developing a new campground at Greenwater Lake Provincial Park; conducting detailed design and preliminary site work for a new campground at Blackstrap Provincial Park; developing full service campsites at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park; as well as maintaining and upgrading roads, campsites, boat launches, trails, shelters, and equipment across the entire park system here in the province, Mr. Chair. I'm proud of our government's record with the provincial parks.

Total capital investments in provincial parks have increased 244 per cent in the past seven years compared to the previous seven-year period. Along with that increased investment, we have seen increased attendance. Saskatchewan provincial parks set a record 3.7 million visits in 2013. Also in 2013, our government designated Great Blue Heron Provincial Park, the first new park to open in nearly 20 years. We are both managing the growth and improving the visitor experience every time we make investments into parks.

Now earlier this year I had the privilege of announcing a renewed lottery agreement which guarantees that sport, culture, and recreation organizations will continue to receive and benefit from Saskatchewan Lotteries proceeds over the next five years. This new agreement has been renewed until March 31, 2019. This is the first time the agreement as a five-year term has been renewed. Saskatchewan lottery proceeds benefit more than 12,000 volunteer-run groups that deliver services to communities across the province. More than 500,000 registered members, both individuals and organizations, are represented by Sask Sport, SaskCulture, and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

The proceeds are administered through the Saskatchewan

Lotteries Trust Fund by Sask Sport, SaskCulture, and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. A five-year agreement gives organizations funding stability. As well, in 2009 the lottery licence fee was lowered to 3.75 per cent, which when combined with increased sales and improved efficiencies and the hard work of the dedicated volunteers, resulted in \$8 million more being directed to the sport, culture, and recreation sectors over that five-year period. I'm pleased to share that this lower licence fee will remain in place until 2019.

Moving on, Mr. Chair, to Creative Saskatchewan, recently announced their latest funding recipients from their second intake of requests. More than \$1.6 million was awarded for a wide range of projects representing all of our creative industries. With this second round of funding, Creative Saskatchewan in its first year has so far awarded about \$3.5 million to more than 100 Saskatchewan applicants.

As you know, Mr. Chair, Creative Saskatchewan is only in its first year of business. Creative Saskatchewan was established in early 2013 to assist in marketing the work of Saskatchewan's creative industries. With initial annual investment funds of \$6.5 million, the goal of Creative Saskatchewan is to help provincial creative industries be commercially strong, market ready, and appreciated both nationally and internationally.

In 2014-15 provincial budget, Creative Saskatchewan will receive \$7.7 million in funding to continue to assist in marketing the works of all the creative industries in the province. Creative Saskatchewan is still accepting and assessing applications for several continuous intake programs, including the screen-based media content development grant, the screen-based media production grant, and the market travel grant.

Funding is available to creative industries in the areas of music, sound recording, film, television, interactive digital media, visual arts, crafts, publishing, and the performance arts. To qualify, applicants must be based in Saskatchewan. Creative Saskatchewan is planning to have three application intakes in this coming fiscal year. Dates will be announced soon so I encourage people to watch their website at www.creativesask.ca.

While we're talking about arts and culture, I want to share with you that funding to the Saskatchewan Arts Board has increased by 8 per cent over the past two years. Back in 2011 the Saskatchewan Arts Board released its strategic plan. The plan detailed five overarching goals which included providing greater support to arts organizations so that they are able to achieve their mandates, so that they are sustainable and they can provide great support to individual artists. They approached government and asked for our help in achieving those goals. As you know, we responded with a 5 per cent funding increase in the last fiscal year, '13-14. And I'm pleased to share today that there is an additional 3 per cent increase for the Saskatchewan Arts Board in the '14-15 budget.

There is also a 3 per cent increase for the Western Development Museum, the Wanuskewin Heritage Park, and the Saskatchewan Science Centre.

Also under the arts and culture portfolio, we've maintained

stable funding in '14-15 for artsVest Saskatchewan. artsVest began as a two-year pilot program with a total provincial investment of \$500,000. That was matched by federal funding and then leveraged private sector investment to ultimately result in more than \$2.4 million of financial support for the arts and culture sector. In May 2013 we agreed to extend artsVest in Saskatchewan for another two years. There is renewed federal and provincial funding for the '14-15 fiscal year, and the province has now committed a further \$250,000.

Another program that has resulted in significant private sector contributions is Main Street Saskatchewan. I'm pleased to share this evening that we have dedicated \$550,000 in the 2014-15 budget for Main Street. Main Street was launched in April 2011 as a three-year, \$1.65 million demonstration program designed to create strong, vibrant communities. The pilot started in the communities of Wolseley, Indian Head, Maple Creek, and Prince Albert. And so far, Mr. Chair, the program has contributed to 41 new jobs in Main Street districts, 21 new businesses in Main Street districts, and \$2.73 million in private sector commitments to historic building rehabilitation and streetscape improvements. That is a 10 to 1 return on the province's initial investment in capital projects. That is a smart investment.

Mr. Chair, overall spending on arts, culture, and heritage has increased 39 per cent in the past seven years compared to the previous seven-year period. That is our commitment to steady growth.

Further along, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is also part of our ministry. Right now a new temporary exhibit in the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum] lobby is attracting quite a bit of attention, Mr. Chair. You may have seen some of this in media reports recently. The display hosts a meteorite that was recovered from an fiery meteor that lit up the night sky on November 20th, 2008, high above Lloydminster. As the meteor streaked southeastward into Saskatchewan, people from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Montana reported seeing the fireball and hearing the sonic booms.

A week later a research team from the University of Calgary found the first meteorite fragment on a frozen pond. Eventually more than 1,000 pieces of the shattered object were collected, making it one of the largest accumulations of debris from a single meteor event ever recorded in Canada. Now a piece of that meteorite is on display in the RSM lobby at the corner of College and Albert Street. The RSM exhibit was made possible through the generous donation of meteorites by brothers Alex and Ian Mitchell. The pieces were found on their farms near Lloydminster, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Chair, we can look forward to more renewal and exciting things at the RSM in '14-15. Staff there will be reviewing, redesigning, and expanding educational and interpretive programs for school groups and casual visitors, updating the earth sciences gallery, and taking travelling exhibits to nine communities around the province. As well, budget '14-15 includes \$100,000 in one-time funding for the RSM to complete a capital renewal study.

As I mentioned last year during estimates, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has assumed the operations of the T.rex

Discovery Centre at Eastend, Saskatchewan to safeguard the centre's long-term sustainability as a key tourism destination. This year is the 100th anniversary of Eastend, so my ministry is currently planning anniversary activities for the T.rex Discovery Centre. It should be a great summer to celebrate their 100th anniversary.

And back by popular demand, Government House is coordinating bilingual historical vignettes again this summer. Government House is also starting to plan the celebration of their 125th anniversary in 2016. Meanwhile the Provincial Capital Commission will continue celebrating our province's heritage by commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War in 2014 and establishing a committee to plan the provincial celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017.

Mr. Chair, all of these things contribute to the strong quality of life people in Saskatchewan enjoy. In addition to building pride and creating a sense of community, our ministry is also trying to increase quality of life by ensuring families and young people are healthy and active.

Once again we are funding the community rink affordability grant which provides community-owned indoor ice services with an annual grant of \$2,500 to help offset operating costs. Not only do community rinks give people a place to go to be social and get some exercise; they also provide jobs to people in the community and they are no doubt the centrepiece of social activity in all of these communities across the province during the wintertime.

In terms of encouraging young people to be active, we continue our commitment to the active families benefit by providing a refundable tax benefit of up to \$150 per child for all children under the age of 18 involved in cultural, recreational, or sport activities. The benefit is a fully refundable tax benefit and helps families with the costs of their children's participation in these cultural, recreational, or sport activities.

This year for sport and recreation, my ministry is looking forward to collaborating with Sask Sport on the Canada sport policy and its sport development strategic plan 2013-2016. As well we will support the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association and the recreation sector to align the development of a provincial recreation sector strategy with a national recreation framework.

On a professional sport level, we have a couple of exciting files as well, Mr. Chair. As you know, we are establishing a provincial athletics commission to sanction professional combative sports here in the province. That legislation is currently in third reading and we expect the Act to be proclaimed later this spring.

As well we are providing \$50 million in financial support for the planning and construction of the Regina stadium project. That project will support, of course, the Roughrider football club, but it would also become a venue for community activities and the build will create jobs. It's part of an overall revitalization plan for the city of Regina, and it's a huge part of our continued plan for steady growth, not only here in the capital city but throughout the province.

That is what steady growth is all about: making smart investments that both help manage the growth and encourage further growth. Mr. Chair, economic forecasts for our province remain positive for 2014-15. I look forward to the coming year and all the projects that we have planned, and my officials and I would now be happy to answer any questions that committee members may have. Thank you.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister, and welcome to your officials. Ms. Sproule, do you have some questions?

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have questions. And thank you, Mr. Minister, for those comments, and welcome to all your officials as well. This is an amazingly interesting and diverse ministry, and I'm going to be trying to cover a lot of ground here tonight. So forgive me if I bounce around a little bit, but I don't have a specific plan. We'll see where we actually end up.

And so one of the first questions I want to have is on a financial basis. And I know when we look at estimates, we look at what the expenditures are planned to be for the ministry. But I'm just wondering if you could refer me to where the revenues are, so how much money the ministry takes in in terms of parks for example, the park fees. And where is that found and located in the budget documents?

[19:15]

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So, Mr. Chair, what you'll see, to the hon. member, on page 103 in the Estimates book — I don't know if you have an Estimates book there with you — under allocations . . . Are you with me? So at the bottom of that allocation section you'll see Commercial Revolving Fund subsidy. So all of our revenues collected through the parks go into what's called the Commercial Revolving Fund under Finance, under revenues. We don't actually collect revenues in the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

So all of the revenues, so in 2014 the actuals were \$22,296,055, and that . . . Oh sorry, no. I apologize. The revenues were \$14,425,064, is what we would have collected through camping fees, through cottage leases, through park entry fees, resource management fees, commercial leases, swimming and accommodation fees, facility rental income, and interest revenue. And then there's other which I suppose is a variety of different, it's about 300,000, a variety of different other fees — things like renting out canoes and kayaks and those kinds of things. So the only thing that shows up in our estimates is when that is deducted from what subsidy is provided from the Commercial Revolving Fund, the net amount that comes over to my ministry is the Commercial Revolving Fund subsidy.

Ms. Sproule: — And that shows up as an expense?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's right because that's the subsidy from the GRF [General Revenue Fund].

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. And Community Initiatives Fund as well, there's profits that come from the gaming commission for . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That is a formula that is derived for the

profits from the Moose Jaw and Regina casinos, and it's on a formula basis. And so that's just a direct flow through, that whatever SGC, Sask Gaming Corporation estimates for casino profits, that's the estimate that's plugged into the budget for '14-15. Now it could change during the course of the year if casino revenues are up or down during the course of the year.

Ms. Sproule: — And then I know that there are revenues as well under lotteries for, well you get the licence fee, I believe, under the lotteries. How much was that last year?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That came in last year at 3.75 per cent. It hasn't been finalized yet for fiscal year '13-14, but estimated at \$200 million in sales, so that results in \$7.5 million again to the GRF under Finance.

Ms. Sproule: — Is there any other sources of revenue generated by activities in your ministry?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So I'm advised that we also receive approximately \$300,000. It's a flow through of federal funding provided to Sask Sport from a sport bilateral agreement with the federal government. And then this year we anticipate some revenues, although I don't have it in front of me, what we anticipate for commissions based off of potential MMA [mixed martial arts] events in the province, combative sports. That will be on a percentage of gate fees. We anticipate about 20,000.

Ms. Sproule: — Twenty thousand is your guess there. And then for things like Meewasin Valley Authority, Wakamow Valley Authority, are there any fees collected through those or the regional parks?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — We don't collect fees through regional parks. Those are urban parks and so there's a difference between urban parks. There's seven of them in the province. We just provide a statutory supplement and, well statutory funding and a statutory supplement to Meewasin Valley, Wascana Centre Authority, Weyburn, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Wakamow Valley. And then the regional parks, we provide just over a million dollars in capital for regional parks, the Saskatchewan provincial Regional Parks Association. And then they have their own program whereby, through an adjudication process within the Regional Parks Association, they can allocate up to a maximum of \$50,000 per regional park. So a maximum 25,000 from the monies we provide has to be matched by the regional park authority.

Ms. Sproule: — And there are no fees or licences that come from regional parks? No. Okay.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Not to the province, no.

Ms. Sproule: — All right. Thank you very much for that.

I'm going to start in right away with the camping fees. And I know you had some difficulties when they went online recently, and you indicated that you would be providing those who were double-billed \$100 sort of sorry-about-that payment. And I'm just wondering how many \$100 payments were made to camp registrant people and whether you have collected any fines from Camis, I believe is the name of the company that's providing the service?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So in response to your initial question about how many card holders or individuals received a \$100 cheque was 1,514. And then the . . . We fully anticipate to recover that what in essence will be 150,000, \$151,400 from the service provider. And we've already started that process.

Ms. Sproule: — Have you received any monies yet from them?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — We don't actually receive monies from them because we actually collect the monies on their behalf. So we're going to be withholding, in two separate payments, the amounts as agreed to with the service provider to compensate that \$100 for those 1,500-and-change.

Ms. Sproule: — And when are you going to withhold those amounts? Have you agreed on a date yet?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes, the first withholding is for this initial invoice for this camping season, and then the second amount to the tune of \$75,000. And then the second amount, the remainder will be held, withheld in the second invoice that we get monthly.

Ms. Sproule: — And are there any . . . I think I read recently there were a few individuals still outstanding that hadn't received the payment.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes, there are six individuals still outstanding, representing I think less than \$2,000. And we've had contact with all six individuals. Some of them didn't realize that their cards had been overcharged. A couple of experiences with people who had actually gone to their financial institution and had their charges reversed on their own through their financial institution. So they didn't want anything to do with dealing with us or the service provider so they just went straight to their Bank of Montreal, if you will, if they had that Visa card and had it dealt with through the bank. But we have six individuals outstanding. All have been contacted. All are in the process of finalizing their reversals.

Ms. Sproule: — Great. Thank you very much. And as far as the rest of the operations and the registrations, it's gone well? There's been no further glitches?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — It has gone well. I will say again, on the second day of launch, which was the Wednesday of the week that I think I briefed you on the Tuesday after the initial Monday, Wednesday we had seven or eight parks open up that day — no difficulties with respect to what we had similar to the Monday on the credit card situation.

We still have heavy volume and people trying to get on the system early in the morning to book their favourite camp sites. We subsequently took the remaining, I think it was seven parks, and spread those over the Friday, Saturday, and subsequent Tuesday. And it reduced volume considerably on those, and have had no problems. We are up 25 per cent on our initial launch week this year over last year on reservations successfully completed.

Yes, and I should . . . Yes, we have a 250 per cent increase on volume on the system this launch week than we had over last year's launch week. So we are continuing to work with our

service provider, and we have some external expertise has come in to work with us and the service provider to determine again where we might be able to mitigate these bottlenecks, these problems.

I'm informed that some of the other provinces and the federal parks system that this particular service provider works with, they do it very different than we do. They do rolling 90-day launches on their parks. So it's, you know, it might be such a case where if you're trying to book . . . Our most popular reservation times are the May long weekend, the opening weekend, the July long weekend, and the August long weekend for obvious reasons, and then the peak weeks inside July and early August.

So some of the other park systems will roll their parks out on a 90-day rolling basis, so you can't book July 1st until 90 days out. Similarly you can't book middle of July until 90 days out. There are still problems with that kind of system, and it precludes a family from being able to, you know, if they book three or four different weeks at different times, you've got to be on the system on that 90-day period out. And so we are doing what we call a deep dive on this system, working with our service provider to see what we can do to mitigate that volume problem and try to provide as seamless a process as possible for our campground patrons.

Ms. Sproule: — All right. Thank you. It's obviously a great challenge, and something that people are certainly taking advantage of. In terms of available spaces, is it 100 per cent booked?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — No. We're at about 44 per cent capacity right now. But as you can imagine, that 44 per cent is all of those peak times the people are trying to get for those coveted parks, coveted dates.

And a lot of times, you know, you have families who are trying to hold family reunions and get camping sites near each other or friends that camped together for years, and they try to get sites adjacent to each other and that kind of stuff. So people will go on the system quite a bit early on. And now as the system rolls out, as we get closer to actual camping season, people will be like, oh let's go camping this weekend, and they'll go on and try to find a place in the park. So we're at about 44 per cent of our capacity right now.

Ms. Sproule: — Is it possible to get up to 100 per cent technically or theoretically at any camp?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Any particular campground?

Ms. Sproule: — Any particular one. Or do you hold back some spaces? I know that you mention overflow in one of the documents I read. But could you theoretically book 100 per cent of the available camping spaces?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Oh you could, yes. And overflow simply means it might be we put the ball diamond in use at a campground, or in a lot of cases people will go to what we call overflow that doesn't have any amenities added, waiting to get into an electrified stall inside the main campground or a campground that they want. But you absolutely can be 100 per

cent booked.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. Thank you for that. Okay, I think at this point I want to jump into Creative Sask. And what a difference a year makes, I guess. We were in committee a year ago tomorrow, and I know a lot of questions were being asked about the future of Creative Sask, but I just kind of want to check in and get a sense of where things are at now that the bill has been introduced and the regulations are in place. I guess they've been effective since July, and the Act has been in place since then as well.

First of all I'm just wondering about the hiring process for the CEO. I understand that there was an extensive search done for that CEO. I forget if he's called the CEO. I think that's his title. I'm just wondering who conducted the search and how much it cost. How many were interviewed? How many were shortlisted? And that's, yes, four things.

[19:30]

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I will say this to the hon. member: we don't have a lot of the individualized information with respect to the CEO search. This is a third party similarly like the Western Development Museum or the Arts Board. If they were engaging in doing internal operations, we don't have all the individualized financial information with respect to the cost of those things. They are subject to the Provincial Auditor auditing their financial information.

I am informed that the search . . . And I wasn't involved in the search at all. I was literally informed of the candidate who the board wanted to make an offer to because it has to go through order in council for approval. It was a firm out of Toronto, I believe, called the Bedford Group that was hired by the board. They formed a search committee, I believe headed by Valerie Creighton who is one of the board appointees, who is the head of the Canada Media Fund, originally from Saskatchewan, now based in Ontario, and who has experience in working with this organization called the Bedford Group in this particular sector.

As for the individual costs of what it cost for that search, I don't have that information with me this evening but will endeavour to find out for you, and bring it back for your benefit. As well, because they follow the same fiscal year, once they're audited and their annual report is published, all of that information will be available in that report.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. So we'll look for the annual report for that information. I assume there will be committee, an opportunity in committee to ask questions on that annual report?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm assuming so. I mean we file annual reports with the legislature.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes. Okay.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — And once it's filed, again, not unlike the Arts Board or the Western Development Museum, these so-called arm's-length third party agencies that we provide the global funding to, we'll endeavour to get as much information for you as you desire.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. Okay, I'm just looking at a list . . . Where is it? Sorry, I've got lots of paper here. On the Creative Sask web page, and I guess they announced their CEO in January, there's a list of all the funding opportunities that have been created, I assume by Creative Saskatchewan then, and there's a download of all the application forms. Now every one of these seems to be a grant-based type of funding. So there's a grant application for screen-based media content development. There's a grant application for screen-based media productions. There's also a creative industries production grant, market export and COGO [Culture on the Go] application form, and a grant budget form, all of these. And I think what really strikes me, Mr. Minister, is the word grant that is in every one of them, including the screen-based media ones.

And I just want to share a comment from May 14th, 2012, and this was from the Premier when he was explaining why the film employment tax credit was being removed from Saskatchewan. And here's a quote. He said:

Mr. Speaker, we know that everybody involved in any industry as individuals who are employed pay taxes. The point here is about the companies involved in the industry itself. The point here is that we can have a tax credit system for companies who pay taxes in the province of Saskatchewan. What we are stopping is a grant. It is a de facto grant that has existed up until now. Ninety-eight per cent of the monies paid under this tax credit have come as a grant before any profit is made, before any taxes are paid . . . If it walks like a grant and if it talks like a grant, the taxpayers think that they are supporting, in a very direct way, an industry.

And so I recall the Premier's concerns about the fact that the tax credit was being viewed as a grant but what we see in Creative Saskatchewan is actually the creation of a grant. So I feel like there's a bit of inconsistency in terms of what the minister, or the Premier's concerns were, and what Creative Saskatchewan is now doing. And so I'm just wondering if you have any thoughts on how that . . . in my mind is inconsistent, and do you see that as consistent?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I think we could argue semantics and what the Premier . . . And I have had long discussions with the Premier about this. What he was referring to more than anything else was the awarding of taxpayers' dollars to basically single-purpose entities that were not based here in Saskatchewan. And these are organizations, and we can get into a long discussion about what occurred a couple of years ago. And I'm prepared to have that discussion.

What we were trying to accomplish here through Creative Saskatchewan more than anything else was that we were trying to support the indigenous creative industries in the province of Saskatchewan, those that are based right here. And I refer you back to a letter I've used in the House on several occasions from the Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association, SMPIA, better known as SMPIA, dated October 3rd, 2012, when we were involved in the consultation process for what Creative Saskatchewan might look like. And the president at the time — I believe she's still the president — was Holly Baird. I think she's still the president. I'm not sure on that but I stand to be corrected on that. In any event, Ms. Baird wrote me a letter

talking about their conceptual plan of what an organization who could support not only their industry but the creative industries in the province ought to look like, but primarily around their particular sector. And she goes on to say and I quote, "As requested, please find below the broad strokes of my remarks from that meeting."

This was a meeting that we held back on October 1st between SaskFilm, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, SMPIA officials, myself, and ministry officials.

SMPIA has developed an overall conceptual program design using data and financing scenarios from SaskFilm which we feel meets the needs of our industry while addressing these concerns: (1) the program needs to place a greater emphasis on indigenous production; (2) it should support greater Saskatchewan expenditures to promote industry sustainability; (3) it should be as cost neutral as possible; (4) it needs to meet sector requirements while not participating in what is seen as a bidding war; (5) it cannot be a tax-related initiative, i.e., not refundable.

So SMPIA and all the creative industries were involved in an almost year-long consultation process as to what this new agency could look like, should look like, and not knowing what kind of funding envelope they might have, how it would disseminate funds in an appropriate manner for supporting not only the media production industry but the other creative industries. And there were meetings across the province in several different locations.

We had struck an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] committee to attend these meetings. I attended several of them myself as well as some plenary sessions with all of the different participants that wanted to engage in this. And basically what you are seeing in the development of Creative Saskatchewan is what came out of those consultations. And I know Mr. Folk from my ministry was heavily involved as was Twyla, the assistant deputy minister, in those discussions.

So I think where we're at with respect to the funding envelope, if you will, and how it's disseminated by Creative Saskatchewan, you can call it a grant. You can call it a non-refundable award of money. You can call it . . . It's not a loan, and it's not a tax-related initiative. It is I guess for no other, for lack of a better term, a grant.

I will say this, and I've said this publicly, and I've said this to the representatives from the film industry in a number of meetings, that had we to do this over again with respect to where we ended up on the development of Creative Saskatchewan, our process was lacking. And I've apologized to them for that.

What we did do is engage in a fulsome, lengthy consultation process to determine what is the best way to move forward to support all the things that Ms. Baird identified in her letter, here in the province of Saskatchewan. We now have a board that operates Creative Saskatchewan that is made up of appointees from the Government of Saskatchewan as well as nominees from the various creative industries. So they have people there sitting at the board table that they've put forward to represent their interests and bring forward their concerns and ideas.

And that board is working with their new CEO to develop a strategic plan. We assist them where we can, when we can, and when asked to continue to get them up and running. The important thing is that we now have two years worth of funding going into that organization, '13-14 and now '14-15, that is disseminating those funds to exactly what these folks told us they wanted to see, and that's the support of the indigenous artists in this province — and I say indigenous in the terms of being germane to Saskatchewan.

So you know, we can go back to what the Premier said in your referencing. I don't know if that was from *Hansard* or in the House or where it was, but I think, you know, realistically we're dealing in semantics there.

Ms. Sproule: — Well I wish it was just semantics because I know what we've seen is a massive exodus of the film talent in many, many different areas of the film industry from our province. So if we're looking for indigenous development, we've seen the exact opposite of that in many ways because many of these indigenous, in terms of homegrown, Saskatchewan-born and Saskatchewan-based artists and creative people have actually left the province. And I have a number of other quotes from the Premier and when he talks about his difficulty with the grants. May 17, 2012, in *Hansard*:

We've made another choice, Mr. Speaker. It was a difficult one, but we have said, no more grants. We're not going to use taxpayers' dollars in these kinds of bidding wars.

And then on March 27th he said:

I did make it clear that in terms of the bidding war that is this film tax grant that happens across the province, across the country . . . And, Mr. Speaker, it is a grant because it doesn't relate at all to taxes paid.

And a couple of other similar comments by the Premier. So it seems that we had a situation where there was a cabinet or a Premier that had taken offence to the fact that these grants existed. We now see *WolfCop*, and maybe I'll move into my questions about that particular production receiving a \$250,000 grant to do a film production here in Saskatchewan.

And before I get into *WolfCop*, I do want to refer to the final report of the *Moving Saskatchewan's Creative Industries Forward Consultation*. I think that was a summary of the meetings you referenced just recently, or a few minutes ago. And throughout this report we have a number of comments indicating the concern the film industry people had about the process and certainly concerns about some decisions that were being made. So for example on page 3, there's a quote saying:

Overshadowing much of this discussion, however, was the strongly-held and widely-shared view among creative industry stakeholders that the Saskatchewan government's recent decision to eliminate a refundable tax credit for film and television production was contradictory to the central goal of advancing commercial objectives in the creative sector.

And there is another comment on page 4 talking about the

assets that are here in Saskatchewan:

Other key sector assets include entrepreneurial and talented professionals and world-class venues from which to create. One of the most valuable assets in this regard is the Canada-Saskatchewan Production Studio in Regina. This purpose-built venue is one of the best places to make film and television programs in Canada. However, there were a number of ideas put forward during this consultation regarding how this asset could be utilized more effectively.

And then it goes on to say:

While there is a strong and widely-held belief across all creative industries that this space should be used for its original purpose if possible, it was suggested that other complementary activities could take place in the facility when it is not being used by film productions.

And on page 35 there's a further discussion about the Canada-Saskatchewan production studio. And almost everyone that was consulted, I understand, argued that, and this is a quote: ". . . converting some or all of the soundstages to some other purpose would be a fatal blow to Saskatchewan's film, television and digital media industry as it would lose its major physical asset."

So I'm just wondering if you could bring us up to date in the committee about any decisions that have been made regarding the film stage, and I guess we can go from there. So where are we at with the film stage?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well it's still there. It's sitting empty quite a bit of the time.

And you're absolutely right in quoting some of the comments made by folks involved in the consultation process that occurred two years ago, that particularly many in the film industry felt it would be a shame if the production studio was not kept as a production studio. It's been kept as a production studio based precisely on the advice of the folks that were involved in that consultation process, continued to this day to be supported by taxpayers, not only of the province of Saskatchewan, but the city of Regina with respect to property taxes. There's 72, 73,000 square feet over there that sits primarily empty for use for film and television purposes.

Now, has it been used? Yes, it's been used. To the extent that we want it to be used? No. Has it ever been used to the extent that any government wanted it to be used? No. I dare say during the time of when your party was in power, you can go back to the history in what we call the utilization rate of that production studio. The highest it ever was was 68 per cent usage in 2004-05. So it ranged everywhere from 2002-03 at 17 per cent utilization rate to this last year at 4 per cent. But 17 per cent, 19 per cent, 68 per cent, 57, 44, 64, 54, 21, 40, 57.

So you know, this is an industry that is . . . it's got wonderful people that work in it, and I don't begrudge any of them that work in the film industry for wanting to do what they can possibly do and have it supported in a way that allows them to do what it is that they love to do, and that's create art through

film and television. But if any of us sitting around this table thinks that this is not an industry that is extraordinarily mobile and extraordinarily fleeting, we're deluding ourselves. They follow the dollars. They go to where the tax credits make the most sense.

And I'll reference you to, this is an article recently in *The Economist*, not a disreputable publication whatsoever, *The Economist*, January 18th. It's entitled "Best state in a supporting role." It goes on to talk about, "Still most independent research finds that tax . . ." And I'm quoting from the article in *The Economist*. This isn't from Kevin Doherty.

[19:45]

Still, most independent research finds that tax credits for filmmakers serve mainly to help—drumroll, please—filmmakers. A study in Louisiana found that for every dollar the state received in revenue from film production, it spent \$7.29 in credits. Jobs created by productions often do not last. States bid against each other (and foreign governments) to offer bigger bribes.

And I draw your attention to another article in *The Washington Post*, dated just this past February, February 14th, and I quote. The article's entitled "Hit show gets Maryland's attention." And I'm quoting now from *The Washington Post* article:

A few weeks before Season 2 of "House of Cards" debuted online, the show's production company sent Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley a letter with this warning: Give us millions more . . . in tax credits, or we will "break down our stage sets and offices and set up in another state."

A similar letter went to the speaker of the House of Delegates, Michael E. Busch (Democrat-Anne Arundel) [I suppose that's the district for that particular congress person], whose wife, Cynthia, briefly appeared in an episode of the Netflix series about an unscrupulous politician — played by Kevin Spacey — who manipulates, threatens and kills to achieve revenge and power.

In recent years, Maryland has spent more than \$40 million to reward movie and television production companies that choose to film in the state, and most of that largesse has gone to [the show] "House of Cards."

"This just keeps getting bigger and bigger," Delegate Eric G. Luedtke . . . who until now has supported film tax credits, said at a hearing on the issue last Friday. "And my question is: When does it stop?"

So what I would say to the hon. member is that yes, there is heavy competition out there for the film and television industry with respect to different states, different countries, different provinces offering up tax credits to entice some of these productions to come to their locale. What the Premier has consistently said is that we're getting out of that bidding war. We're not engaging in that bidding war any longer. We're going to find a mechanism to support all of our creative industries here in the province of Saskatchewan in an affordable fashion, within the context of a balanced budget.

So we don't have an endless pot of money that we can throw at just the film and television industry to try to entice the next *Game of Thrones* to come and film here in the province of Saskatchewan. What we do have, within the context of a balanced budget, is a pot of money that's available through a third party, an arm's-length, independent agency to award monies to these different creative industries. I think that, based on what you'll see in that report, this is what's been asked for; this is what's been delivered.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I guess I just want to focus on the sound stage for now. In terms of the final report from December 2012, there were a number of situations that were being contemplated, potential uses of the sound stage. I understand SaskMusic thought about a business incubator. Another submission from CrashBangLabs suggested it be turned into a makerspace. Takt Communications put forward a similar idea for an innovation centre. There was thoughts, maybe an arts education design facility, a larger space for the Arts Board's permanent collection, a retail space, publicly accessible café or restaurant, and a number of other suggestions.

On page 37 of the report there was indicated that this is a facility owned and operated by the government under Central Services, and there was some suggestion on the part of the stakeholders that the building should be managed by a new entity. And I'm just curious if any decisions have been made there.

And they want whoever, the people who were consulted thought it was important that whoever operates the building be connected to the creative industries and ensure they are housed. So I'm just wondering if there's been any decisions made or if you can bring us up to date in terms of what work has been done in terms of utilization of that facility in the last year.

I'd like to further point out that many people pointed out it would be impractical to convert the sound stage with 80-foot high ceilings into office spaces. So that was a concern as well. Maybe you could let us know if that's not going to happen or happen.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well what I would say to the hon. member is that there is office space over at the sound stage right now. As a matter of fact that's where Creative Saskatchewan is currently being housed. There's 25,000 square feet of office space over there. And I'm not asking this flippantly, but I'm just curious if the hon. member's ever toured the sound stage.

Ms. Sproule: — I haven't.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — You haven't. Okay. Love to take you over and have a look around and offer that invitation to you any time you want to go through there. We know that for example the sound stage accommodation costs over the last number of years had been in excess of \$1 million a year in costs that the Government of Saskatchewan, the taxpayer of Saskatchewan picks up on an annual basis. The last few years they've averaged just over \$700,000 and project in 2014-15 to cost about \$731,000 for the cost of ensuring that the lights stay on and the building stays heated.

We intend to enter into a formal arrangement with Creative Saskatchewan to manage the sound stage. I can tell you here today that there's no desire on my part or my ministry's part to turn that into an office complex, if you will. We have deliberately kept that facility available for its intended purpose.

Now I think the month of May, I think Fashion Week is going in there. That was a proposal brought forward to us through Creative Saskatchewan and to see if they could have a studio there to do their Fashion Week. And I, you know, if it's sitting there empty, I don't see any problem with that. It's booked out, and the organizers of that particular event are going to use it for that purpose. And you know, it can be used as a multi-purpose type of facility, but we will engage with Creative Saskatchewan and perhaps seek some external advice on what the best use of that facility is, moving forward.

But based on the feedback we've received through the consultation process, we did exactly what the participants in the consultation process asked us to do, and that's to keep it as a sound stage. And that's what we've done.

Ms. Sproule: — So at this point you anticipate that it would continue to be kept as a sound space, sound stage for the near future anyways.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's correct.

Ms. Sproule: — I know you're indicating that there's a number of costs. I think you said \$731,000 just to keep it open last year. This past year?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Projected for this year.

Ms. Sproule: — Oh, projected for this year, that's '14-15.

I know that some of the arguments for having the tax credit here in Saskatchewan was that every dollar that was invested by the government would actually turn around, I think it was \$6 for every dollar. So 6 to 1, if I recall correctly the arguments that were being made. And I know that even this year, your ministry is putting \$50 million into a new stadium for the purpose of generating more economy here in the province.

So I just sort of would be interested in your thoughts when you compare, you know, putting \$50 million into a stadium as opposed to \$1 million over 50 years in the operation of a sound stage. Is that a fair comment in terms of using taxpayers' dollars to generate economy? And why would you do it for a stadium but not for film production?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well what I would say initially is that, regardless of what sector government spends money in, if the government spends a dollar it's going to generate economic activity in the province. The study you're referring to that said that for every dollar there was seven dollars came back or something, was the chamber of commerce report, which actually said for every dollar there's 44 dollars generated in the economy. That's a flawed study, in my opinion.

I'm not an economist but I've gone through that study backwards and forwards, six ways from Sunday a number of times. And I have a number of question which I outlined to Mr.

McLellan from the chamber of commerce when that study was brought forward a couple of years ago — not the least of which is that it uses production values. The average production value in the province of Saskatchewan over the last number of years was \$44 million.

What it fails to recognize is of the \$44 million, only 60 per cent is actually spent on the procurement of goods and services in the province of Saskatchewan. The other 40 per cent of the production value is spent on the procurement of goods and services outside the province of Saskatchewan. So yes, it generates economic activity, but it doesn't generate economic activity or tax revenue in the province of Saskatchewan. It might be for paying for somebody who lives in Vancouver or procuring the services of a munitions expert if there's . . . they're going to have a big bomb scene or something like that in their movie. So those monies go outside the province of Saskatchewan, included in the production volume — I agree with that — but not money spent here in the province of Saskatchewan.

So when you look at, on a net basis, what was being spent with respect to refundable tax credit to the single-purpose entities, it was a net cost to the taxpayer for the film industry in this province. There's no dispute about that. Even the chamber of commerce report shows there is a net cost to the taxpayer to have that industry be somewhat viable here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I would argue that it wasn't all that viable over the last number of years.

As a matter of fact, I was lobbied heavily as a candidate by the film industry to enhance the tax credits, as I know a number of my colleagues were, in order to make this industry more competitive with other jurisdictions because we were chasing the Vancouvers and the Torontos and the Montreals just in Canada on that particular basis, notwithstanding the Californias and the Louisianas and other states that have been referenced.

Now when you talk about the \$80 million contribution that the province of Saskatchewan's providing to the stadium here in the capital city of Regina, you're right. There will be an economic benefit. Those are dollars that are all being spent here in the province of Saskatchewan — not to a single-purpose entity that is not going to pay any corporate tax in this province, not to a single-purpose entity that's going to take their profits from the marketing and distribution rights from their film and pay those taxes where they're headquartered in California or wherever else they're headquartered. That is money that is going to be spent right here in the province of Saskatchewan and stay here in the province of Saskatchewan.

It is not unlike monies that were spent not just by our government, but by previous governments on these kinds of facilities and communities across the province.

In Lloydminster, the Lloydminster Commonwealth Centre, the Yorkton Gallagher Centre, the Swift Current Centennial Civic Centre, the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Arena upgrade, North Battleford multi-purpose recreation facility, the Weyburn Colosseum, the Shaunavon recreation complex, the Saskatoon Blairmore Civic Recreation Centre, the Regina Ipsco Place revitalization project, six new rinks in the Brandt Centre refurbishment here in the city of Regina.

I can go down the entire list here of monies that were spent on facilities not unlike the stadium here in the capital city of Regina. And on a percentage basis, we're right in sync with what these kinds of grants, if you will, in helping out these communities with their facilities is exactly, on a percentage basis, the type of monies that's going to be spent on the full price tag of the stadium here in the city of Regina.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I'm not an economist and I certainly don't have any of the level of detail you have on those other facilities you refer to. I guess the question then is if we're so anxious to keep money in Saskatchewan, then why would we not have, instead of contracting with a company like Camis out of Ontario, you know, we could have built a similar registration system here in Saskatchewan. Like there's always money flowing in those types of industries, so could you not then have created an incentive in Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan production companies rather than just allowing the tax credit to go completely by the wayside and have everybody move out?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — But that's exactly what we did through Creative Saskatchewan. We have provided an incentive up to the maximum amount of \$250,000 for indigenous production companies here in the province of Saskatchewan. And what was the number . . . 106 projects have been funded so far. I can go through the entire list for you if you want. 137 projects so far with just 3.5 million of the \$5 million investment envelope last year notwithstanding the million-dollar transition fund that was transferred over from the Saskatchewan Arts Board that funded some, I think, 60 projects during that transition period.

Ms. Sproule: — Are those all film projects you're referring to?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — No, they're not all film projects.

Ms. Sproule: — That's what I'm interested right now in. Just the film projects.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Okay well let's go through the film projects. I have it here. Okay so we can go through some of these projects. Through the market and export development grant, Chris Atkinson, Regina, screen-based, \$7,500; a company called Harmony out of Regina, screen-based, \$21,150; Karma Film out of Saskatoon, screen-based, \$29,750. Moxie Films out of Regina, screen-based, \$25,000. One Story Inc. out of Saskatoon, digital media, \$20,717. Shiverware out of Regina, interactive, \$14,755. Talking Dog in Regina, interactive, \$8,250.

[20:00]

SMPIA itself, jointly participate with the Saskatchewan Craft Council, SaskBooks, and SaskArt in a project led by SaskMusic to combine marketing efforts and present joint exhibitions of creative products to global markets in California, \$11,435. Talking Dog Studios, create a scalable, portable, rentable, and franchise-ready interactive performance environment using augmented reality and related live interaction technologies and innovative integrated space, \$37,500. SMPIA, in conjunction with Creative Saskatchewan, develop a program focused on economic development of the Saskatchewan media production industry, \$111,000.

Cheshire Smile Animation out of Saskatoon, screen-based, \$22,569. Fahrenheit Films out of Saskatoon, screen-based, \$11,920. Hulo Films out of Saskatoon, screen-based, \$18,287. Talking Dog out of Regina, interactive, \$12,075. Market travel grants, the continuous intake program, Tim Tyler, Saskatoon, screen-based, \$2,527. Tim Tyler, Saskatoon, screen-based, \$3,328. Lioz Bouganin — I apologize if I've got that name wrong — screen-based, \$2,700. Kevin DeWalt, Regina, screen-based, \$2,178. Holly Baird, Regina, screen-based, \$4,229.50. Wally Start, Saskatoon, screen-based, \$2,822.

So screen-based media . . . I can go through all of these, Ms. Sproule. What might be . . . This is straight from the news release of Creative Saskatchewan outlining exactly all the different grants that they've provided.

Ms. Sproule: — I have that.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I can provide . . . Oh you have a copy of that?

Ms. Sproule: — Yes.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So when we . . .

Ms. Sproule: — I don't have it here right now but I do have it up in my office.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Okay. So when we talk about the film industry specifically, do we have a . . .

Ms. Sproule: — I guess my specific question is, how many of these would be feature-length films or television series?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I don't have the answer to that. What I can tell you is when the film employment tax credit was still in existence, the vast majority of those dollars were spent on three different series in the last few years of the tax credit, one of which came to a cessation of its own volition, *Corner Gas*, the other two of which were cancelled by their network, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *InSecurity*.

That's where the vast majority of film tax credits were going to in the province of Saskatchewan over the last number of years.

Ms. Sproule: — And that's where a large number of people were employed who no longer live here because they don't have employment anymore, so . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — But it had nothing to do with the film employment tax credit. Those series were cancelled either by their network or wrapped up by their producer who took his next two series to the province of British Columbia.

Ms. Sproule: — Do you know . . . I understand that *Corner Gas* the movie is going to be filmed here soon. Is that going to be taking place on the sound stage?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I don't have an answer to that. That's not been announced to my knowledge, so I don't have an answer to that.

Ms. Sproule: — I think I'm just going to move on now. A

couple of questions about *WolfCop*, and I think it's some inconsistency in the news reports between last September and what the ministry announced in January. I understand that *WolfCop*, which is a full-length film, will get \$250,000 now through the Creative Saskatchewan funding process that you just gave us a long list of awards to or grants. So that's what happened in January. We see an announcement for \$250,000 for *WolfCop*. In September, however, one of the individuals involved with the production — a production executive — indicated that *WolfCop* was going to be funded through the last vestiges of the film employment tax credit. And so I'm wondering if you could indicate how this discrepancy came about and maybe where it came from?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So as I understand it, and I didn't have any conversations with the producers of *Wolf Cop*, was that they had a couple of choices in finalizing their financing package for their production. They had made arrangements in agreement with the ministry and SaskFilm at the time that they could qualify for an existing film employment tax credit application, because it was of similar genre and it was made prior to the cessation of the FETC [film employment tax credit] in beginning of July 2012, or they could apply through Creative Saskatchewan for financing. They chose to partner up with an existing producer who had . . . if you recall back in 2012 producers had until July 1st of that year after the announcement in the budget to make application for a pending production. They then had two subsequent years to complete that production to qualify for the FETC.

And a number of different producers did that. I signed film employment tax credit certificates on a weekly basis in my office for those that had applied originally and have now finished production and have applied for the FETC and qualify through the screening process that was done by SaskFilm, is now done through Creative Saskatchewan.

My understanding, and I stand to be corrected because this is what I'm hearing, is that the arrangement with the existing producer didn't work out. Therefore they had to make a choice if they could try to find another producer who had existing film tax credits on their books or apply through Creative Saskatchewan. They chose to apply through Creative Saskatchewan. It went through the adjudication process that has nothing to do with me or the ministry and were awarded \$250,000 and completed their filming here in Regina and surrounding area.

Ms. Sproule: — So just to make sure I'm understanding this, the producers of *WolfCop* originally were hoping to get it under the FETC through another production company and using their remaining allowance, but there was a falling out of some sort, or would you say it didn't work out, and so then the only alternative they would have had was Creative Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes. Again I've not discussed this with the producers, so what I'm hearing is that that was the original path they chose. That was I think perhaps the article you're referring to in the media reports where the producer was going to pursue that avenue with an existing producer, an existing production company, and for whatever reason, that didn't work out. And so then they came back to Creative Saskatchewan and went through the application process through Creative

Saskatchewan and received the maximum amount that Creative Saskatchewan can award.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, the reporting is not quite identical to what you're saying, because they were saying that the application was submitted just in time and that they got in at the tail end under the wire. So it sounds like . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm sorry. They got in under the wire of what?

Ms. Sproule: — Of the deadline for the FETC.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — No. So they would have had to have applied for the FETC under their own production company back by the end of June 2012. So I don't know what article you're referring to. I haven't got that article in front of me.

But whatever the producer's referring to, the arrangement was that they had pursued . . . because we had to have it approved both through . . . Justice had to agree that it fell within the guidelines of the FETC, and it did. Because they applied, they had originally tried with another producer that didn't qualify. They then went with — and I'm not going to use any names here because it's irrelevant in that sense — but they then went with another producer or production company who had qualified for FETC credits under a certain genre, that being like a horror film. And for whatever reason additional financing or whatever they were going to use this production company for — whether they had a falling out or didn't qualify for further financing with a financial institution or whatever the case may be, I don't know — that relationship ended and then *WolfCop* came back to Creative Saskatchewan for an application to receive funding through Creative Saskatchewan.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, the article I'm referring to is from News Talk 650 CKOM, and that was on September 13th where the individual, Lowell Dean, said "*WolfCop's* application was submitted just in time. It's not officially gone yet, it's just being phased out. We're kind of coming at the tail end, just under the wire." And the shooting was beginning the next month so . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I would just suggest, with all due respect to Mr. Dean, he's just inaccurate in his assessment of what took place there.

Ms. Sproule: — So he was wrong? Because they were already doing casting and shooting in October, so they must have felt fairly secure that they had the funding, but maybe he just was not understanding it correctly.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well again, not knowing the conversation that went on with the other producer or production company, maybe they were assured something that couldn't come to fruition or something. But you know, I think the good news here is that they went through Creative Saskatchewan, received the funding, and completed filming here in Saskatchewan.

Ms. Sproule: — Do you know whether Creative Saskatchewan sort of gave them advance guarantee that they would get that funding of \$250,000? Or would they have just found out in January when the announcement was made?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I have no idea. That would be a process that would go through the . . . That adjudication process does not come through my office. It's very similar to the Arts Board. Matter of fact, I think they use the Arts Board adjudicators for applications that come in, I'm informed. And so I find out what they're funding when you find out. It's issued in a press release.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. Thank you. I remember last year there was some discussion in committee about some transitional funding that was coming from the Arts Board, and I know you'll remember this, and I'm not totally clear on what happened then. But there was a loan program that was underutilized. Can you talk a little bit about that loan program? Is it still in existence? Was it phased out at that time?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes, so the loan program is . . . There's about \$1 million sitting with the Arts Board as a loan program for various artists who . . . Maybe I'll ask Gerry to come on up here. I don't know all the details of how the loan program itself works, but what I can tell you, on the basis of discussions with the Chair, the former Chair now of the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the executive director, Mr. Kyle, that money had been sitting dormant for five or six years, basically because artists don't go and borrow money because they don't think they can pay it back. So you know, being responsible people, they're like well I'm not going to go borrow \$10,000 knowing I probably can't pay it back on a visual artist, or whatever the case may be. So the program was just, it was just never utilized. I think for all intents and purposes the idea behind it was very valuable and to this day exists, but we knew that there was \$1 million sitting there that was not only underutilized but not utilized at all.

So we had some discussions with the Arts Board, and I will say that the Arts Board offered that money up. And I remember very vividly the meeting in my office with Ms. Barclay, the former Chair of the Arts Board, and Mr. Kyle. As we were transitioning to Creative Saskatchewan there was a bit of a gap there, obviously, not a gap for some of the other creative industries because they never had the opportunity to apply for this kind of funding on a grant basis. They certainly could through individual applications at the Arts Board.

But Mr. Kyle and Ms. Barclay said, we have this \$1 million there. As we're getting Creative Saskatchewan going, why don't we offer up the \$1 million? We'll handle the adjudication process and have creative industries apply right now until we get the budget finalized for Creative Saskatchewan, the board established for Creative Saskatchewan, and the rules and regulations around it up and going. And I thought it was a heck of an idea. And so it was yet another \$1 million that we could put into the economy of Saskatchewan through the creative industries and through their adjudication process that they awarded . . . And I think it was 62 projects, Gerry?

Mr. Folk: — Yes.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Sixty-two projects, whether it be individuals or organizations or associations, that benefit from that \$1 million.

Ms. Sproule: — In terms of that loan program, is that \$1 million advanced every year for them to spend on the loans or it

is a cumulative amount of money? And how much money do they get back from the loans? Like is it revolving?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm advised that the original loan program had \$1.15 million, \$1.15 million in it. It was hardly ever utilized, if ever — maybe on a few occasions. So the \$1 million was offered up by the Arts Board for that transition fund. So that \$1 million is gone. There now is \$150,000 left in the loan program that I'm informed Arts Board is working towards a micro loan program for artists, for it to be available. And that seems to be a sufficient amount of dollars in that program for the uptake on it.

Ms. Sproule: — So from this point forward it would remain at around \$150,000.

[20:15]

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes. I guess unless the Arts Board makes an application through treasury board or through the minister, through the ministry for additional dollars to that loan program, but it will continue to be 150,000. They did not make an application this year for an increase in that program.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay, thank you. I'll just take a minute here to sort through some papers, Mr. Chair. *The Creative Saskatchewan Act* when you introduced it, second reading on April 8th a year ago, I've been trying to understand . . . I understand the focus is to create a business or a thriving economy in the creative sector. And one of the comments you indicated was that it would refrain from duplicating programming opportunities provided by such organizations as the Arts Board.

And when I look at the list of the types of grants that are available, so if it's a content development grant . . . There's a screen-based media content development grant, and I think there was a couple of others. Maybe it's just, well the COGO, Culture on the Go, is that not duplication of some of the work that the Arts Board is doing? I mean it appears that some of the grants that Creative Saskatchewan is providing has to do with the development of content, which is similar to programming under the Arts Board. Have there been any concerns raised about that, or do you see these as a duplication at all?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — What I would say, you know, it's a good observation. And I would be remiss if I said that there were no concerns being expressed as we were developing Creative Saskatchewan from individuals involved with the Arts Board or individuals involved with Creative Saskatchewan or people during the consultation process that there was a fear that government was somehow perhaps trying to swallow up the Arts Board into this new entity. And that was expressed to me and officials on several occasions during the consultation process. It was never my intention or the government's intention to see that happen at all.

But are there some growing pains with respect to the two organizations now? Probably. Is there some duplication or overlap? Probably. And I think we're going to see that not for very long into the future, but we're going to see a little bit of that happen because more than anything else, individuals or entities involved in the creative industry sector are creative.

And they thrive — and I say that in a very positive way — they thrive on receiving grant funding or receiving funding from various sources to do what it is that they love to do and pursue, whether they do it for just the love of painting, if you will, or whether they do it to try to make a living at it through commercial purposes. So what I've always . . . And I'm going to ask Gerry Folk here in a second to kind of talk about . . . who was heavily involved in the consultations and worked with both the Arts Board and the Creative Saskatchewan folks in setting up their guidelines, if you will.

What I've often said when asked, and I've been asked on numerous occasions, sometimes by media, other times just by folks who are interested in the arts is, you know, why wouldn't you just have Creative Saskatchewan as part of the Saskatchewan Arts Board? There are some who have said, why wouldn't you just move the Arts Board into Creative Saskatchewan and have one entity? But I think that they have very distinct and different purposes. And the Arts Board, which is the second oldest arts board in North America, as you well know, has been around for 65, 66 years now — 66 years. It helps different organizations, whether it's theatrical companies, you know, professional art galleries, theatrical companies in the province, individual artists who are just starting out and learning their craft.

And so I always equate it to, you have a scientist who does basic research and they work at the science bench and they create something. And it may be at a university or it may be in a private lab, whatever the case may be. But for the most part they aren't the one that goes about commercializing that product, if in fact they want to commercialize it. So the university has commercialization divisions that take those kinds of products and help them develop and help them go out and market it and derive some revenue for the institution and what have you. In private labs it's usually the basic scientists or the basic science project that then turns it over to those that can develop the product, and they take it out and commercialize it and market it. And the Arts Board does a tremendous job in the germination, if you will, of an artist in whatever genre in creating their product and kind of learning their craft and supporting that individual or that group through those initial stages.

Once they determine that they perhaps want to commercialize that product, whether it's in music or film or visual arts or what have you, that's where Creative Saskatchewan brings its expertise to the table and it helps these individuals do business planning, do legal work, commercializing their product, marketing their product, and taking it to markets that they perhaps never dreamed of. They did an interesting foray down into LA [Los Angeles] here a couple of months ago, where they brought all of the creative industries together to a seminar — for lack of a better term — at the consul general's residence in LA, where they invited folks from the film industry, music industry, publishing industry and that. The reports I got back was that it was very, very fruitful for a number of them, particularly the publishing industry, who had never had that kind of access to those kinds of publishing houses or those kinds of connections, if you will, to take the books that they are publishing here in the province of Saskatchewan and market them. And I think they're going to do these kinds of trips, not unlike STEP [Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership],

into other markets around the world. And that's what I encourage them to do because that's taking our creative content here in the province and helping these entities go out there and make a living at it and making the world aware of what we can create in the province of Saskatchewan.

So there are organizations that have very different mandates, if you will. That doesn't mean that there's not going to be collaboration. I know the board Chairs, I think they've met. There's a new board Chair. Pamella Acton out of Saskatoon who's the new board Chair for the Arts Board and Mr. MacNaughton, Mike MacNaughton who's the board Chair for Creative Saskatchewan, have met. I am confident the CEOs will be working together. I know they know each other. I've encouraged that kind of collaboration and as they, the Arts Board, which is a long-term entity and has good solid footing with respect to its management team and the things that they do, can teach Creative Saskatchewan and some of the strategic planning and planning practices and those kinds of things. But they don't market products like Creative Saskatchewan does and that's where some of the expertise lies at Creative Saskatchewan and some of the expertise they'll be bringing in to help market that creative content, if you will.

So, Gerry, I don't know. Did I . . .

Mr. Folk: — You covered it all.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I hope that answered your question. But it's a valid concern, I would say to the hon. member, and it's been expressed to me. And my direction for as much as . . . I mean all we can do is legislate or regulate to keep the entities very separate and provide funding envelopes for them. We have to try to ensure and work with them that they work collaboratively together, not in competition, not developing turf wars, but for the benefit of the creative industries and the artists that are involved in those industries.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. I have to think back to what the actual question was.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — You were concerned that there was overlap.

Ms. Sproule: — I know. I'm just teasing you.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — We have three and a half hours.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, we do. We do. We've got lots of time and I appreciate the depth of your reply. Before I forget, I know there's been some new appointments to the Arts Board and I do know that there is one of the individuals was Ken Azzopardi. And I've been told he was the business manager for your campaign during the election. Is that true?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That is true, yes.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay, thank you. I just wanted to confirm that.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I would also say Mr. Azzopardi has a long history in the arts sector in this province. He's the former Chair of the Regina Symphony. He's the former Chair of Globe Theatre. He has a love of arts and culture. He's also the Chair I

appointed last year of the WDM [Western Development Museum], who has taken that organization from a deficit position into a surplus position through some strong management and direction from the board and who is a person who's retired so he has time on his hands, although he might argue differently but is someone who I think is well respected in the arts and cultural community.

Ms. Sproule: — And I have no doubt that he is and I appreciate those qualities. Obviously, those are questions we need to ask. And there are a lot of people in Saskatchewan with those similar qualifications so I just wanted to confirm that.

In terms of your description of the role of the Arts Board vis-à-vis Creative Sask, if I understand it correctly, you're comparing the work of the artist and the creative process as sort of the pure science you would find in a scientific metaphor. And the work of Creative Saskatchewan would be the commercialization or what they would call applied science I guess in terms of when you look at the research sector in, say, universities or in advanced education institutions. Before we get to the pure science or the applied science, and this is something that's of concern to me really on a personal level, and I'll just tell you a bit of the story.

I travel a lot in Saskatchewan and do workshops in schools with . . . It's old-time music but it's with fiddles and pianos and guitars. And we often ask the students, you know, how many of you would like to learn to play an instrument? And of course they all put up their hand, and some would like piano and some would like guitar and some would like fiddle. But invariably at the end of the session, we have teachers come to us or students come to us and say, do you know any teachers in this area?

And what my experience has been is that there is a dearth of educators in any level of the arts in Saskatchewan, be it classical music or folk music or visual arts or theatre. And I know the schools are doing the absolute best they can, and certainly the Arts Board has been very active within the schools in terms of providing students with access. We have Creative Kids, which is a great program and it's also, as far as like . . . And people I know in smaller communities, they can't spend the money they get because there's no one teaching it.

So I'm just wondering if, within your ministry, there's sort of . . . Before you get to the pure science or the applied science, you need to have the training to get those people to that stage. For example, Saskatchewan's the only province as far as I know that doesn't have a crafts college much like you . . . Well you will find them everywhere else. We have the Craft Council but we don't have a college specifically devoted to the production of what I would call 3-D art, which is pottery and sculpting and metalwork and things like that.

So is there any discussion within the ministry at this point in terms of that third piece, what I would consider the third piece, which is getting people to the point where they can actually be creators with sort of the knowledge and the skills that they need to bring that to life?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I think it's an excellent question. And I'll be honest with you, it's the first time it's been brought to my attention about the lack of educators — and not necessarily

professionals; we're talking about just the man or woman who wants to teach a kid how to play the fiddle or the piano or what have you — in small-town Saskatchewan.

I'm informed of a couple of different programs that the universities and the professional orchestras through the RSO [Regina Symphony Orchestra] and, I'm assuming, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra all get out and . . . Well not all perhaps, but most of them get out and they are involved in educating those who want to teach.

Now what I would say, perhaps it's a good path to explore and have a conversation with the Minister of Education, the Minister of Advanced Education, in looking at those kinds of programs available. It's the first time it's been brought to my attention, so I want to maybe do a little research to determine what exactly exists in the province so I'm not speaking out of turn here.

But what I would say on the user side, if you will — and I've used this example on numerous occasions when I've met with different representatives from the various arts and cultural organizations — you know, I grew up in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan and I was able to play a little bit of sports. So I had, you know, and if you're a little bit of a jock in small-town Saskatchewan, you play on every team in the high school. It doesn't matter if it's volleyball or basketball or hockey or what have you. So I had every opportunity growing up in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan because there was a gymnasium and there was a hockey rink and there was a curling rink and there was a ball diamond. And I had every opportunity to pursue those passions and there was always coaches available because there was community volunteers.

But if I was an aspiring actor or an aspiring . . . If I was a child who wanted to learn to play the cello, for example, or paint, those kinds of opportunities didn't exist in my hometown. And I've often said that we need to find those kinds of opportunities for those kids to pursue those passions and dreams.

And some of the things as a government we're doing is the active families benefit, for example, to provide parents some financial assistance to have their kids involved in cultural, sport, recreational activities. I mean we, you know, I mentioned the community rink affordability grant for those sport facilities again in small-town Saskatchewan. The 2,500 bucks doesn't seem like a lot, but it could be the difference between the existing, not existing in some of these small-town rinks.

But if there aren't educators available or people to teach these kids those things . . . And maybe it's one of those things we need to look at from a regional perspective, have discussions with SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and the school divisions. And it's an interesting idea and, as I said, I want to do a bit more research on that because there may be things existing I'm just not aware of.

[20:30]

Ms. Sproule: — Fair enough, and it's definitely some outside the box kind of thinking I've been doing. And I've gathered, you know, personally I've gathered names of people who are

actually teaching, in my case, fiddle in probably 20 or 30 different communities. They don't know each other. They don't have a professional organization. Now there is the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, the SMEA. There's the orchestral association, so there's a number of really active associations, even Music for Young Children and programs like that. My sister-in-law teaches that in my hometown of Lafleche, and she's quite successful and they have a very good organization.

So it's not that it doesn't exist at all, but I do know your experience because I grew up in similar town. And I was very fortunate that there was a convent, sisters, that I went to a separate school. And I took piano from the same nun that my mom took piano from, and she was wicked but, you know, I learned. So you know, we were fortunate.

And quite often it's just finding that person with that passion for whatever it is. It might be fiddle. It might be cello. It could be painting. And just giving them the space to share that with people, you know, maybe in the community they live in, maybe some surrounding communities. And I know a number of successful music teachers in small towns will, you know, go one day a week. And my sister-in-law does that right now too — you know, Kincaid and Gravelbourg and Glentworth — and so she created her own sort of entrepreneurial business, really. I mean she created a great career for herself doing that and still doing that. And then the music festival benefits and it kind of goes on and on.

But I just know that when I phone the Arts Board to say, is there any way to get some funding for these people just to do some self-support; if I could gather these people in a room because, you know, they could benefit from each other and learn from each other, and there was really nothing that fit the bill as far as the Arts Board is concerned.

So that's not really a specific question, but if you wanted to provide another comment.

Mr. Folk: — I can talk — Gerry Folk, executive director of culture — I can talk a little bit about a program that is going. It's run by Common House leadership out of North Battleford. It's a mentorship program and it's addressing the concerns that you're raising.

There's a lot of isolation in the province between the various communities, so there is 15 young cultural leaders that have been identified from anywhere from Creighton, Saskatchewan down to Swift Current, to Yorkton, throughout the province. And there's four mentors that are working with them. So we've gotten together four separate weekends, and we're trying to bridge exactly what you're talking about, that isolation within the communities. So this program was supported by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, by SaskCulture, and by the ministry. And then we're also putting some human resource in behind it as well.

It's the first year of the project, and there'll be a follow-up after the summer to bring the students back together. And by young leaders we're actually talking 35 and under who are feeling isolated in their communities. So we've been working hard to try and develop that mentorship role to break down any barriers

they might feel. And the work that's coming out of it is truly amazing.

Ms. Sproule: — It's called Common House leadership?

Mr. Folk: — Yes, and Dean Bauche is the person.

Ms. Sproule: — Oh.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I was invited to, and the name is going to escape me, but a conference to join them for dinner. It was on a Friday night. I think it was last fall. Five different organizations: music teachers, the orchestral society, and I can't remember all five . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That's who it is. But I remember sitting at the table with them, with the president. And why it stands out is they said this was the first time in their history that they had actually had a minister in my position come to their conference.

And I remembered it because it was the best rendition of "O Canada" before dinner I've ever heard in my life because the entire room was full of musical people. And it was . . . like it brought chills. But it was a very interesting evening, and we'll have to touch base back with them again because I think there might be some . . . exactly what you're talking about may be brought through those different organizations.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes. And I know it's just such a shame with creative kids where . . . And in this particular case it's the town of Big River, where there was a woman volunteer who put together the application, got a bunch of funding for kids to take lessons, and then the music teacher was married to an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officer and they moved away. And that was it, you know.

So it's sad when that happens, when you have kids that want to learn and there's just no opportunity. So that was a bit of a segue. I have a couple of questions about some of the definitions in the regs that were passed. And the first one is the definition of an eligible applicant.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Sorry, these are the Creative Sask regs?

Ms. Sproule: — Creative Sask regs, yes, that came in last year. In the definition of eligible applicant, I'll just read it out. It's section 2(1)(c) and then (ii). So it says:

"Eligible applicant" means:

- (ii) with respect to an individual, an individual who filed an income tax return respecting income earned in Saskatchewan in the year preceding in which he or she applies for financial assistance pursuant to these regulations.

And my question or concern there is that there may be a number of individuals living in Saskatchewan who aren't filing income tax. They could be supported by a spouse or have some sort of inheritance and yet they may want to apply for some sort of marketing assistance from Creative Saskatchewan. So I'm just wondering if you could explain why that is the determining factor for eligible applicant under these regs.

Mr. Folk: — Gerry Folk again. One of the things we looked at when we were developing the regulations — and these were developed in consultation with the industry as well, so they were part of the consultation process as the regulations were being developed, and they had input into them — we were looking at various other models. And other models were using income tax as one of the bases for establishing a residency, so we built it off other models that we took a look at.

Ms. Sproule: — I would suggest though, there are other ways of determining residency. So this could exclude people, and that's what I'm concerned about.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — What I would say to that . . . I mean regulations is a lot different obviously than legislation and changing it. And I think, as I said earlier, there's going to be some growing pains with this organization. I think, if you have those kinds of suggestions, Ms. Sproule, we'd be delighted to take that down and look at that further.

Ms. Sproule: — You know, if you start thinking about it, you can imagine someone who would be excluded that might be a very eligible kind of person in any other context.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I agree.

Ms. Sproule: — Another question I had for the regulations is on part III, financial assistance. That's section 5(2)(b). And it says:

Every application for financial assistance must contain:

a business plan for the proposed project that is the subject of the application, including a proposed budget;

I've had the joy of preparing a business plan for a business that I'm involved in, and it was a huge, onerous task. And we were applying for a significant amount of money through financing, so it made sense for us to do that. But have you any guidelines for what has to be contained in these business plans for the applicants?

Mr. Folk: — Gerry Folk again. Creative Saskatchewan, through their application process, there is some guidelines available. But the idea is that, if you're going to be commercializing your art or monetizing your art, then a business plan is required to identify how you're going to be funded and where the sources of revenue are going to come from.

Ms. Sproule: — Is this one where you expect them to actually hire someone to prepare the plan for them?

Mr. Folk: — No.

Ms. Sproule: — So I'm just trying to imagine what would be acceptable. Like I'm thinking a modest proposal for maybe, you know, setting up a trade show in the local community or something like that. When I think business plan, I think that's something maybe much larger than what this is intending to mean.

Mr. Folk: — Yes, and a business plan can be developed

through the criteria that Creative Saskatchewan has. So depending upon the scale and the size of the project will determine your business plan as well.

Ms. Sproule: — That criteria, did you say that's already on the web page right now?

Mr. Folk: — Yes.

Ms. Sproule: — So there are guidelines for people who are applying?

Mr. Folk: — Yes.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. I didn't have a chance to look at that. Again, one of the comments — and maybe if you could give some comment back on that — is the notion of what an eligible project is. And under section 3, I hope I have this right . . . No, section 2. It's on definitions, eligible project. It has to be a project that "has a demonstrable economic and cultural benefit to Saskatchewan."

My concern there is the requirement that it have a demonstrable economic benefit because I think when we look at creativity, that really limits it. So what was the reason for ensuring that every eligible project has a demonstrable economic benefit?

Mr. Folk: — The economic benefit . . . Again, Creative Saskatchewan is mandated to look at the monetization of art with the Saskatchewan Arts Board looking at the creation of art. So it has to be a way to demonstrate that there is a market for the product.

Ms. Sproule: — How are you asking people to do that demonstration?

Mr. Folk: — Again, that's through Creative Saskatchewan and the criteria. And through the adjudication process, as applications come in, they'll be adjudicated by peers and they'll make that determination.

Ms. Sproule: — I'm just trying to think of something like, for example, a person who does murals, for example. There'd be no economic benefit to a mural, so they just wouldn't be able to apply for funding under this.

Mr. Folk: — Well they would be able to apply to the Saskatchewan Arts Board. And that's where the conversation about duplication of roles that the minister talked about is really key and critical. The board Chair for Saskatchewan Arts Board and Creative Saskatchewan have met at least once, possibly more. David Kyle and Mike MacNaughton meet regularly to talk about overlap and duplication. And during the consultation process, we talked about how we wanted to avoid duplication between the two agencies so there wasn't individuals who were getting multiple funding for the same project. So the Arts Board would fund the creation of the art. Creative Saskatchewan would fund the marketing of the art.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, I guess again some of the language that was used by the minister in the second reading, for example, was: "Saskatchewan creative industry leaders envision a product development and marketing agency . . ." And again

when I get to project development, to me that involves a creative aspect. So I understand, you know, the grey areas that both of those agencies are now sorting through. And I think at this point I'm just going to say, we'll watch and hope that they can sort it out and that it makes sense for everybody. So it's not an easy task for sure.

I think I'm going to move away from Arts Board or Creative Sask right now and start moving onto other topics. I may come back to it depending on what moves me, how creative I am.

I want to talk a little bit about the Community Initiatives Fund. And I see a press release I'm referring to here from December 12th, I guess from the fund and from PCS [Parks, Culture and Sport], and there was an announcement that 226 grants were awarded and almost \$4 million. I don't know if you have this information or not, but I'm just wondering, how many actual applications were there? We know 226 grants were provided, but how many applications were there?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Again, an independent body. We don't have that information here specifically for you, but we will endeavour . . . I'm informed that it would be a lot more applications coming in than what was awarded. So I think you said 200 . . .

Ms. Sproule: — 226.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — 226. So I'm informed that, you know, there might be a few more than that that were rejected or what have you. But they do try to . . . because their criteria is very specific, if you will, and a number of organizations and communities apply annually so they know how the process works. But we'll endeavour to find out how many applications were received and get that information back to you.

Ms. Sproule: — Just add a couple more questions to that then. How much money was applied for, and then how much money was turned down? So if you could add to that.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes. We'll get that as well. Thank you.

Ms. Sproule: — And in terms of the structure of the fund, is it a board and are they appointed board . . . oh yes, it's a volunteer board appointed through your ministry? Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's correct.

Ms. Sproule: — How many individuals are on that board?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Eight.

Ms. Sproule: — And I'm just seeing in your press release here that this is a special purpose fund through the Gaming Corporation Act. So why is it that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is appointing the board when this is a Sask Gaming enterprise?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm told that the . . . And this has been set up for how long now? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . So I'm informed that this board, this Community Initiatives Fund has been in existence since 1996 and the relationship between Sask Gaming Corporation is simply one of flow through of dollars.

There was a formula set up such that the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation obviously receives the dollars or the revenues from the Moose Jaw and Regina casinos, and then through this formula turns those dollars over to both the Community Initiatives Fund board for distribution on cultural and community events, and then there's also monies that go to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund that is administered through the Ministry of First Nations, I believe . . . Government Relations, yes, Government Relations and First Nations.

[20:45]

Ms. Sproule: — Again in terms of I guess overlapping boundaries, the building communities fund — which is quite small this year I noticed, just under half a million dollars — is there any overlap in terms of the types of projects? Do you see any overlap and is there any concern about that?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So the building communities fund you referenced was a program that had intake from 2006 to 2008. It's being wound down, which is why you see the differences in the estimates. There will be a spike in those estimates for next year, because there's some committed dollars to projects from a cash-flow perspective that will show up next year. I think the Remai Art Gallery in Saskatoon is one of them.

So yes, so estimated for next year in the building communities fund is a little over \$1 million. So these were larger projects that were financed through the building communities program. The Community Initiatives Fund has a maximum of \$50,000 per project. And in the community vitality program, I believe it's \$25,000. Darin? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, it used to be the community vitality program. It's now going to be called Places and Spaces. So it's designed to provide up to \$25,000 per individual project, so the building communities program was for much larger projects. The Community Initiatives Fund is for ongoing, annual dollars received through the Gaming Corporation for much smaller, very spread out projects across the province.

Ms. Sproule: — Just on to the building communities fund then, I noticed that in '08-09 it was as high as \$37 million. And I guess when you look at the overall budget for Parks, Culture and Sport — I'm taking out tourism and, you know, taking out the stadium project for example — the funding overall is actually down about that amount of the building communities fund. Can you advise the committee why that program has wound down?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So, Mr. Chair, I'm informed — it was before my time, before your time too, Ms. Sproule — the building community program was introduced in 2006. It had two intakes under the previous government. The government obviously changed hands in late 2007. The new government, 2007, had one further intake for six major projects and then capped it and wound the program down.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay, so I guess this was one where the funding was much more significant than what we find in the Communities Initiatives Fund. And is there any thought of bringing something like that back at this point in time?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well again, I don't think that there's a

week goes by that I don't have a delegation come into my office asking for some type of funding for their local pool or their rink or some . . . I mean, infrastructure is needed throughout the entire province and what the government has said is that . . . There's no program that exists in my ministry right now. What the government has said is that when they're looking for, whether it's through public-private partnerships or the Building Canada Fund, that they're waiting for the announcements from the feds as to what dollars are going to be associated with that. But again those are projects that are primarily around infrastructure on transportation and water infrastructure, waste water infrastructure, those kinds of things throughout the province.

So where the government could, through dollars available, had invested in these kinds of community facilities if you will, we have, working through Sask Sport and the lottery funds, it was announced at the most recent winter games in Prince Albert that there would be funds set aside through Sask Sport, not through GRF [General Revenue Fund] dollars but Sask Lottery dollars, that in the future for those communities that bid on either Winter or Summer Games, there would be monies made available, matched by the local community, to do facility development or facility enhancement, which are legacy projects for those communities so that . . . And I think it's established at \$200,000 right now, 250.

So Estevan I believe is the next community to be awarded the Summer Games in 2016. So they'll have access to that fund. They have to match it through their own municipal dollars to enhance facilities in their community for the Summer Games, and then the fund will continue. If they don't need all 250, it will build up in that fund through Sask Sport so that the next community that bids on the Winter Games will have access. That was being told to me by the Games Council that we were starting to . . . not we, but the province was starting to limit itself on those communities that would bid on these kinds of games because of infrastructure needs to host the games.

And I don't know if you made it up to Prince Albert during the most recent Winter Games, but it was a fantastic event and I had the opportunity to be there. I saw Mr. Vermette there at the opening ceremonies and chatted with him briefly. But I had the opportunity to visit with organizers.

And you know, part of the monies that went toward the Prince Albert Carlton High School gymnasium there, which is one of the finest gymnasiums in the province now, the school was used as the dormitory for the athletes that came in for that week because it coincided with the week break for school. And then all the kids were housed there, and the volunteers tell me it was a very unique but a good set-up for housing the kids and feeding the kids and all that kind of stuff.

So you know, your point is well taken that a government, where it can, needs to look and be mindful of all of these communities and their recreation facilities. As I said, our community rink affordability grant is not a lot of dollars on an individual basis. It's about \$1.7 million I think in our annual budget, but it helps out considerably. And I've visited a few communities that benefited from that.

But as I said, I don't think a week goes by I don't get a

delegation in saying, we need help with X, Y, or Z facility.

Ms. Sproule: — This \$250,000. What is the name of the program? Legacy projects?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — The Saskatchewan games legacy program.

Ms. Sproule: — Sask games legacy program. Okay.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So there is Sask Sport and then there's the Sask Games Council in the province. The Games Council is the one that looks after the provincial competitions or the teams that go to the Canada Winter Games or Summer Games.

Ms. Sproule: — Certainly we can see how that feeds into, you know, Sochi or the site of the Olympics where, you know, considerable infrastructure is needed to host those. I, being involved in the arts community, always feel that those kinds of things are more available for sporting events because they are bigger. And I know even in places like Saskatoon it's really difficult to find a venue for 750-people type of shows, you know, and there's in my view a huge dearth of cultural spaces as well. But we won't go down that rant just yet.

I want to get back to my questions. On the Community Initiatives Fund — and I don't know if you can comment on this, if this is a decision made by the board there or not — but I noticed there's the community pride projects and events grants. And for example there's a Highland Festival that received funding here in Regina, but we know there's the festivals funding through the Arts Board. So is there, again, is this somewhat . . . Even the Wood Mountain Rec Club got some money for the stampede in Wood Mountain, which is one of our members' home riding. When we have two or three sources for festivals funding, does that create confusion in the community and are people able to apply to both? Is that a problem?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I can't speak for if it creates confusion. It's not been brought to my attention that there's confusion out there. I think these things . . . You know, I tend to judge these kinds of programs by the amount of complaints I receive on them, and if you receive a lot of complaints . . . And I'm sure you as an MLA will judge it by the same way. If there's a number of complaints on a specific area, you kind of pay a lot of attention to it. But I don't get a lot of complaints other than, well, the never-ending ask for more money to all of these kinds of programs. But I'm advised that organizations can apply to these different funds for available grant money.

Ms. Sproule: — Really the question I am interested in is there's the physical activity grant program which is also under Community Initiatives Fund, and we see a number of modest types of awards given there. But there is one that looks like it's a fairly significant project. It's for \$700,000, and that's to the University of Saskatchewan College of Kinesiology for something called MEND [Mind, Exercise, Nutrition. Do it!] Saskatchewan. I don't know if you're familiar with that, but it seems like an unusually large award. And they also got one for \$80,000 so that brings it almost up to \$800,000 where the total grant was at 1 million. So there's another 30 or so that are for much, much smaller amounts. Is that for infrastructure? Do you know anything about that grant?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I do know something but I'm going to ask one of my officials, Darin Banadyga, the executive director in the sport area that has been working with the Community Initiatives Fund, to give you a much more detailed answer with respect to the MEND program.

Mr. Banadyga: — Darin Banadyga. The MEND program, M-E-N-D stands for mind, exercise, nutrition, and do it, and it's a program that the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and Blue Cross have been working on for a few years together. And it's been based in Saskatoon and is looking to expand to other points in the province. And so an application did come to the CIF [Community Initiatives Fund] and it was considered under the physical activity grant program. That grant was then given for an extended period of time, approximately 18 months to two years, and so that is to enable the MEND program to move to southern Saskatchewan, to Regina and beyond.

Ms. Sproule: — So this isn't for infrastructure?

Mr. Banadyga: — No, it's not. No, it's for a program.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. All right. Thank you for that. Mr. Chair, perhaps we could take a five-minute break and then carry on from there?

The Chair: — Like to take a five-minute break?

An Hon. Member: — Sure.

The Chair: — We certainly can. The time is 8:58. We will break for five minutes and try and be back in that time.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

The Chair: — Well welcome back. It's 9:05. This is the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. We're in consideration of vote no. 27, Parks, Culture and Sport, central management services (PC01). We were into some questioning. Mr. Minister, you're back and Ms. Sproule, do you have further questions to ask?

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, I do. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I want to move into now the announcement for the renewal of the community rink affordability grant. And we know that in the news release on December 19th there was \$1.6 million was invested in 362 communities.

Upon that announcement I received in my office a letter or a resolution from the Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc. And they agree with the philosophy stated in this program that:

Saskatchewan is built on the strength of its communities and . . . Healthy individuals and communities are dependent upon a recreation infrastructure that provides attractive and safe places [and spaces] in which to play, socialize, rejuvenate and challenge the mind, body and spirit.

And their concern of course is that they're looking for assistance to help what we would call their rink, and that's the senior centres. And they did make a resolution urging the government to include senior centres in any future funding

grant program that would help to sustain and support that philosophy. And the wording of this resolution is very similar to the description of the grant for the community rinks program.

All they're asking is that the program can be renamed the community recreation affordability grant rather than a community rink affordability grant, and then they would be able to apply as well. And I think the minister would agree that you're more likely to find a senior centre in a community than a rink. Although rinks are fairly ubiquitous, I think that almost everywhere you go, there's a senior centre and there's shuffleboard and vicious card games going on. Certainly it does happen in my hometown.

So I know I wrote a letter to the minister in January attaching this resolution, and when I checked with my office today, we couldn't put our hands on a reply from your office. It may have come and I think your assistant is looking like it probably did come, but I think the response was basically, thank you for your letter. So I'm just wondering if there's any thoughts beyond that in terms of extending this type of affordability grant for the many, many, many senior centres that are providing important services in lots of communities in the province.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes. Excuse me, it's so dry in here my voice is . . . I recall getting your letter, to the hon. member, and I thought I had signed off on a response, but perhaps you're right. I don't recall the response in minute detail. But I think what I probably said was I was aware of the resolution. I also received a letter from the Seniors Mechanism.

And you know, as I said earlier, the worst part about this job is having to say no more than you get to say yes. And that doesn't mean that you can't look at new ideas or new ways of doing things. But it's part of our budget process, and so I can't just at the stroke of a pen say, well we should expand this program into seniors' community centres across the province as well. I think it's a very viable idea. I think it's a great idea, but that doesn't mean that I get to just do that.

We have processes to go through. And you know, the process is the ministry has to take a look at estimates, and we do up budget requests. And we have to go through treasury board and it has to go through cabinet and caucus and all the different approval processes. And well it should because, you know, I sit at the cabinet table, and for every dollar I'm asking for, the Minister of Health is asking for 100, and the Minister of Highways would take them all.

Now I do know that some of these seniors' facilities . . . And my dad goes to the Rose Valley senior citizens' centre on a regular basis to play cards, and so I hear about that, and it is the staple of the community in Rose Valley for our seniors. And it's also used for community events, and we've had some family functions there. So I'm very familiar with what you are talking about, and I have great empathy for what they are asking for.

That being said, you know, I received the letter well after the budget process was pretty much put to bed. And what I would say, you know, and I don't want to raise any false expectations, and the Premier decides who's in this chair for the next budget process, but if I'm in this chair for the next budget process, it's something that I'll undertake to take a look at.

But I was going to say, they can apply through the spaces and places program in the Community Initiatives Fund if it's for certain repairs and whatnot to their seniors' facilities, their community centre facilities. And I would encourage them to do that as well.

Ms. Sproule: — And I assume that's something you would have told them in your reply. I'm sure you would have, yes.

I just have to mention that, you know, in my hometown of Lafleche, that's where all the local events take place, and they're very proud of it. And I just have to say that I'm getting texts from my dad who is sitting in the hospital in Gravelbourg watching the events tonight. And so for him and my sister that's watching, they know how important that centre is as well. And we've celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of my grandparents and my parents in that building, and it serves a lot more in a community function I would think, you know, than people . . . You take them for granted. Because it was the old film . . . I went to my first movie there when I was a kid, and then it got converted.

So I think the minister's fully aware of the importance of these centres in small communities, and certainly for my dad and his cohort, and then soon enough my cohort, you know. These are really important for the vitality of small communities, so I appreciate your intentions on that.

Coming up with another group that's looking for assistance . . . Actually I've got a couple more on my list here. There was a press release and a news story on April 7th regarding the Meewasin Valley Authority. And I know that it's directly funded I guess both through statutory allocations and through supplemental estimates for some of the services it provides. And we know . . . And I don't know if the minister has met with the Meewasin Valley Authority, but certainly as the opposition members that are in Saskatoon, we've had an opportunity to sit down with them. And Mr. Isaak, who's the CEO, is very, very concerned about their ability to deliver the programs that they've been mandated to do under their Act.

Their concerns — and I'm just quoting from the news release or the news article, and this comes from CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] news — that "Government funding is not keeping pace with demands — and inflation." This year they asked for a four per cent increase in their grant, and they got no increase at all.

His indication is that over the last 35 years, the purchasing power has continued to erode and their per capita funding in today's dollars, less than a third of what it was three decades ago. They can't build the walking and biking trails quickly enough for all the new neighbourhoods, and the pressure to expand existing trails is there. They're becoming congested with a growing number of people using them. And then even the interpretive centres of Beaver Creek and the Meewasin Valley Centre are beginning to show their age. And you can tell. I don't know if you've been in them recently, but they definitely are showing their age.

So we know the city is a major funder, but we also know that the provincial government is. And one of the things he's hoping for, according to this article, is a funding review. And so that

would be my first question on this issue, is whether or not the ministry is considering a funding review for Meewasin Valley Authority.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well let me say first of all to your dad if he's watching, our best wishes to him, and we hope things work out. And your daughter is a formidable opponent on some of these things.

I have met with Meewasin Valley Authority on a number of occasions, both with the previous executive director, Susan Lamb, who sits on our Western Development Museum board now . . . Thankfully you take some of these very, very bright, capable people who are good at these, particularly these non-profit organizations and have them continue with their expertise. And so I just say that parenthetically. And then Mr. Isaak, and Mr. Vicq who was the Chair prior to . . . I think he's announced his retirement from the board now, and who was and continues to be a very strong advocate for the Meewasin Valley Authority.

[21:15]

You know in this past budget, I had to take a look at, in a tight budget with respect to available dollars, I took a look at the history of some of the funds that we provided for these different organizations and, you know, I noted a 3 per cent increase for the Arts Board and a 3 per cent increase for Wanuskewin and the WDM [Western Development Museum] and the Science Centre and on the funding for our urban parks.

We do provide significant dollars to these urban parks already, as I think you might have noted in your comments. You know, we're almost at a million in funding on an annual basis to the Meewasin Valley Authority as it is — 740,000 in statutory funding and 169,000 in supplementary funding that we provide. They do have terrific plans, and I understand the need for funding.

I've been to their offices. I've been to part of the trails. I've certainly been down to the landing there along the riverbank, and it's a beautiful part of Saskatoon, there's no question about it. And I know you represent a constituency in Saskatoon, and I know that our Saskatoon MLAs have also met with the authority back in October I believe. And we also have an MLA, Mr. Roger Parent, who sits on the authority board, so I hear from him on a fairly regular basis too.

But I also look at, you know, we provided some one-time funding that you might not be aware of. And in 2010-11 we provided \$100,000 in one-off funding for trail construction, a trail construction grant. We've also provided, through the building communities program — and I think we still have one more payment on that next year — but \$1,750,000 tied to the trails capital program that will end in 2015-16. So there are some dollars estimated for subsequent budgets as a commitment through the building communities program that will go into their hands as part of capital.

The Community Initiatives Fund has provided last year \$18,685 for the Meewasin International Trails Day, and then the Community Initiatives Fund in 2010-11 provided for . . . And these aren't dollars; I agree with you. These weren't decisions

made by me, but these are dollars that they're receiving via casino profits. The Community Initiatives Fund for the Beaver Creek Conservation Area accessibility grant of \$42,500 in 2010-11.

And then I take a look at some of the things that we do as partners with respect to our urban municipalities and keeping in mind that it is a tripartite agreement between the city of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Saskatchewan for Meewasin Valley. It exists differently for the other urban parks, not the least of which is Wascana Centre Authority here in the old jewel in the crown, if you will, of the capital city.

But you know, we look at the city of Saskatoon revenue sharing that's gone from \$17.8 million in '07-08 to almost \$46 million this past year. And you know, that's a 159 per cent increase since '07-08 in unfettered dollars, if you will, from the one point on the provincial sales tax that's given out to municipalities across the province, both rural and urban. And the city of Saskatoon determines how those dollars are spent.

And so you know, as I said before, there's not a week goes by that there's not some organization in, asking for more dollars. I understand that. But given the context of the budget we were in this year and being a member of treasury board and being part of that process right from the get-go, I had to take a look at where we've provided funding in the past, where we continue to provide enhanced funding to those organizations that can also direct their dollars to something that, you know, for the most part is a Saskatoon-based park. And yes, it benefits all of us as we visit the city of Saskatoon, but it primarily benefits the citizens of Saskatoon and tourists. I get that.

But the city of Saskatoon has that wherewithal to make the decision with those increased dollars from the province to say, you know, Meewasin Valley is a major priority of ours. And I'm sure it is, and they have to make those budget decisions as well. I'm not criticizing them for how they make those decisions, but given the amount of dollars I was able to negotiate, if you will, with treasury board and cabinet and the Minister of Finance for various parts of my ministry, and as you said in your opening comments, a very diverse ministry, this didn't make the cut this year, if you will, for additional dollars this particular year.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that response. I know one of the comments in this article is that the government is currently reviewing how well they're meeting their mandate. And I guess because the provincial government has the authority through the legislation to assess whether they're meeting their mandate, I feel they're saying then, with that authority also comes some responsibility to make sure that they can meet their mandate.

So I certainly appreciate the juggling that's required when so many good causes are requiring funding, and I certainly don't have any answers for that. And I'm glad I guess I'm not sitting on treasury board at this point in time. But certainly when you see the growth, and I know your budget talks about managing the growth, and I think these are some of the pressures of growth that are really being felt in cities like Saskatoon where the growth is really evident. And I know you understand this and certainly so does the city of Saskatoon, but of course

they're facing enormous pressures all over the place.

And so these types of, you know, jewels . . . And anyone who has travelled in the Meewasin Valley, I mean it's world recognized for what it does in terms of being an urban park, and certainly I think everyone who lives in Saskatoon but visits as well is really appreciative of that type of conservation and the conservation work that they do. This isn't just a tourism effort, but obviously it's an important part of managing the watershed.

Moving on, I'm going to move on to another Saskatoon issue, and this is again a recent news article that came out on Monday, April 14th, which is actually . . . Is that yesterday? That's yesterday, yes. And this is regarding the Gordie Howe Bowl in Saskatoon. We know that . . . I've got a number of articles here, starting off with a report by Gene Makowsky when he was not elected. This is in 2008, so it's prior to his election here to the legislature. The ministry, your ministry commissioned a report, or he was contracted to review the current state of minor football in the province.

And the very first recommendation that he made in this report was regarding obviously infrastructure. Recommendation no. 1 from 2008 is, "The provincial and municipal governments [should] develop . . . funding programs that would be eligible to support new/upgraded minor football facilities where needed." And he made a specific reference to the larger cities that do host some of the provincial type events for minor football.

He said, ". . . Alberta and Ontario have gone to a midget football league that plays in the spring for kids who are in Grade 10 and 11." And our elite coaches are concerned that our kids are going to fall behind. These teams need to be in the larger centres, and they could go travel to play each other and have a provincial final at the end of the year. It would help giving referees a chance to work more games, finding coaches. And then he goes on to say, ". . . the province should explore ways to help larger centres with the cost of turf fields." That was the background from 2008 when your ministry commissioned that report.

Now we have the Friends of the Bowl Foundation, and philanthropists like Greg Yuel from Saskatoon has contributed I believe half a million dollars himself to get the turf that they needed the Gordie Howe Bowl. And a quote from this article, canada.com network, *The StarPhoenix*, it says, "Sports facilities need wider plan," and it said:

Despite its recent resource boom, Saskatchewan doesn't have the array of head offices and multinational corporations that provinces with much larger cities can tap for donations. Thus any sport facility in Saskatoon has to compete with the likes of the Children's Hospital and the Remai Modern Art Gallery of Saskatchewan for support, not to mention money needed in academic areas at the university and social areas of Saskatoon. And all of this is in competition with Regina's desire to build a new home for the province's beloved professional football team.

And it goes on to say:

It would be much easier to inspire the population to generosity if all these projects could be presented in the

context of a cohesive plan that takes into account not only the requirements of disparate sports groups — and the need to develop a better sports tourism industry — but also regional and even provincial recreational interests.

So that's an editorial from *The StarPhoenix*. And just one more comment before I ask for your views on this particular project is the fact that they've unveiled what they need, and it would be a state-of-the-art bowl for the home of Saskatoon football. It would be teams like the Hilltops, the Valkyries, and the high school action, and they're saying it could also be used for soccer, football, ultimate Frisbee, and rugby. And their campaign is for \$11 million. And finally the concern is about safety and adequacy concerns for the existing Gordie Howe Bowl.

So with all that in mind, what are the considerations of the ministry in terms of supporting this project and the need for it, based on the report provided by Mr. Makowsky back in 2008?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So what I would say is I'm very familiar with the program, with the project, and the folks involved. I do know government has received a formal ask through the Ministry of Government Relations, through Minister Reiter's ministry, and a response, as I understand it, was delivered back indicating there were no dollars available for that kind of infrastructure at this particular time.

Now what I would say in response to, going back to the preamble to your question about the Makowsky report, and I do have a copy of the Makowsky report. And you know, this is before my time and this is before your time, but the question was asked last year by your colleague, my critic at the time, the member from Riversdale.

And so I went back and had ministry officials have a look at it because I hadn't seen the report at that point in time, and had a look at it and went through some of the . . . well went through the recommendations and what resulted from those recommendations. And what I can tell you is that, you know, you're right, the first recommendation was that "The provincial and municipal governments develop capital funding programs that would be eligible to support new/upgraded minor football facilities where needed."

And you know, in response to that, what I would say is since our government took office in late 2007, \$122.3 million dollars has been spent on sport, cultural, and recreational programming. Seventy-four million for 33 projects through the building communities program, including some of those facilities that I mentioned: the Melville Horizon Credit Union Centre; Meadow Lake upgrades to various facilities for the 2012 Saskatchewan Summer Games, and I was up there and viewed some of those facilities; the Moose Jaw Mosaic Place, which is an icon in downtown Moose Jaw now, it's the Chair's constituency; the Spectra Place in Estevan.

There was a program called RInC or the Recreational Infrastructure Canada program in 2009, federal matching program dollars through Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at that time. Fifteen million dollars for 145 projects, including Leibel Field in Regina, a \$750,000 project — I'm not sure if you've been to Leibel Field, but it is in the

member for Douglas Park's constituency, a beautiful area; upgrades to arenas and sports fields in communities including Kamsack, Nipawin, Tisdale, Shaunavon, Lloydminster, Mossbank, Warman.

Of course the community vitality program, which is now the places and spaces program I referred to, has distributed \$7.88 million from 2010 to 2012 for 482 capital projects including Prince Albert minor football lighting project for their fields; the Aberdeen recreation area redevelopment; the Hudson Bay arena; the Moosomin Communiplex multi-purpose room; the Ile-a-la-Crosse swimming pool for \$50,000.

[21:30]

And then there was the Building Canada Fund, which was a federal matching program through Municipal Affairs again, which allocated \$27.3 million for four different projects. I haven't got them listed here, but we can certainly get those. And then of course the community rink affordability grant that's gone out.

So all of that to say is that we aren't, by any stretch of the imagination, ignoring recreational or sport facilities in the province, and so well aware of the project at Gordie Howe. As I said earlier, we have a budget process to go through. I understand that they had made a request formally through Minister Reiter, and he had been communicating through them because a lot of those different programs were housed in his ministry under Municipal Affairs, now Government Relations.

So it remains to be seen if, I'm not going to sit here and predict what the budget might hold for next year. I don't make any promises. I get asks all the time. We take those in under advisement and into consideration as we're developing our budget requests for treasury board and cabinet and through the Minister of Finance, and the caucus eventually signs off on.

And you know, I have not received a formal letter from this group specifically as Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport. I anticipate I probably will. And we'll take it in the queue along with all the different other requests that we get for budget dollars.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. I mean, just to contextualize this a little bit, it goes back to our earlier discussion on pure science and applied science and artists and commercializing. Obviously if we want indigenous football players to be playing in Mosaic Stadium or the Riders for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, there has to be the ability for them to be trained as young individuals and learn the game in the best possible circumstances that they can.

And I know you mentioned earlier with the Riders stadium that all the money stays in Saskatchewan. But I think most of the players, you know, aren't from Saskatchewan, and we would certainly want to make sure that our young men and women who are playing football are able to aspire to that kind of thing and stay home. And you know, I think there's, probably a lot of the money from the Riders stadium goes to pay for salaries of the other teams. So I mean, I don't think all the dollars stay in Saskatchewan. So that's just two little observations.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — [Inaudible] . . . not the operation of the football team.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes. I mean the stadium.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — But there's a fundamental difference there. I understand what you're saying.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes. And I mean, I'm mixing apples and oranges a little bit, but it just reminding me some of our earlier conversation. So I'm assuming then that the friends of the Gordie Howe Bowl will likely be in contact with your ministry and make their case so that you can take it with you for your considerations for . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — And again, you know, I've met with Randy Fernets in Saskatoon who has stressed unequivocally to me that they need infrastructure dollars for facilities if they want to bid on world-class events. And notwithstanding the Gordie Howe Bowl project, you know, this government is providing, I think it's \$3.5 million for the North American Indigenous Games that are coming up here later this year in the city of Regina. And I'm not sure, are they in Moose Jaw as well or just Regina?

A Member: — Just Regina.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Just Regina. But \$3.5 million through government and the Crown corporations.

And we should never lose sight of what the Crowns do in this province with respect to sponsoring various events. I think I added up here not that long ago on the cultural side, and there's approximately \$1 million goes into cultural events throughout the province, arts and cultural events from the Crowns in sponsorships and buying tables to fundraisers, and those kinds of things.

So well aware of the project at Gordie Howe. I think it's a very worthwhile project. You know, our government, I think that you'd be hard pressed to find anybody who would say our government is not supportive of sport and sport activities and sport facilities in this province. And if I receive a letter from them it will . . . As I said, I don't make budget decisions, sitting here talking about the estimates for the current budget that we have presented to the legislature, but I'm also well aware of the fact that not a week goes by that I don't receive a request for some type of funding amount.

Ms. Sproule: — That's certainly a theme I think that you've made very clear in the discussion this evening. I'm just going to move on now into the 2013-14 plan that the ministry published. And I just have some questions about some of the goals that you set out last year and how they're going. Yes, I guess we've already discussed some of them. I was going to ask about the Creative Saskatchewan Investment Fund, but we've covered that.

One of the key actions that you indicated there was to explore new options to use the production studio facility. And I don't know . . . We've already discussed that, but is there anything specific to your key actions there that you wanted to add in terms of how you've been exploring those new options?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well again I'm constantly challenging my officials to work with Creative Saskatchewan and the creative industry sector, that being individuals that are involved in perhaps utilization of the sound stage or the industry associations that utilize the sound stage. It remains open as is. It remains available for very reasonable rates.

But the fact also remains that the taxpayers of this province continue to subsidize that particular facility to the tune of in excess of \$700,000 a year. And for a building to sit in a beautiful part of Wascana Park virtually empty, we need to be more creative than that, to you know, excuse the pun, with respect to Creative Saskatchewan. But I don't think it's a wise use of taxpayers' dollars to simply have a 73,000 square foot facility sit there. And we are not going back down the road of a film employment tax credit or refundable tax credit to compete with other jurisdictions on that side. We've made that clear.

And I know that your party's taken a different position, and I understand that. That's why we have elections, and that's why we have people vote on these kinds of things. But notwithstanding the difference of opinion there, we do have an entity that's available to provide support for our creative industries. I offered up office space for all the different creative industries within that sector to form sort of a creative hub, if you will, for them to have office space that we would provide for them for a two-year period, simply take care of their utilities, and then we would talk about rental, you know, costs after that, but they didn't take me up on that.

And I, you know, I envisioned it around, I think it's called Two Twenty in Saskatoon, that I've toured. And it is a hub of creativity from some very different types of businesses. And I kind of envisioned that kind of thing at the sound stage with the available office space.

I've toured the sound stage with the university president and her VP [vice-president] of facilities to say, there is space available there if you're finding some crowding situations at the university because of space. We have this wonderful space available for lectures during the daytime, for use in your drama department, or your film studies, or the different, you know, fine arts programs at the University of Regina to come and utilize that. She was very excited about the possible opportunities.

But again, these things don't just change overnight with respect to moving entire programs from the University of Regina facilities over to the sound stage. But I can tell you that Dr. Timmons, and I think Dr. Chase was there that day, and a couple of other officials from the university were excited about that.

So I am open to ideas, and if you as the member of the opposition have ideas, we would take a look at that. So it's incumbent upon government, it's incumbent upon me as the minister responsible for that facility to make sure that we are looking at every possible opportunity to utilize that space and provide it as a benefit to, not to just the creative industries, but others who may want to utilize it.

So am I sitting here tonight saying that we're going to turn that facility into something completely different? No, I am not

saying that at all. What I'm saying is that I think I have a fiduciary responsible to ensure the taxpayers are getting value for their money and that if there are other opportunities for different organizations or businesses or educational centres to utilize that space, let's have a look at that.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay we'll continue to follow that. The next bullet on that page talks about the artsVest program. And I know you have announced, I think, an extended funding of maybe \$250,000 for the next years.

I'm curious to know if you have an actual accounting of, I think, the private-sector investment, that you've said that you got more than \$2.4 million out of the private sector. Do you have an actual list of the actual dollars that you could provide?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Could I just ask for my benefit, are you off, Cathy, the '13-14 plan or the '14-15?

Ms. Sproule: — Right now, I'm in the '13-14 plan and that was to continue. Yes.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Okay. I was trying to find your bullet because I'm looking at the '14-15 plan. Yes, we do, in answer to your question, we do have a list of . . . Are they all listed here?

Ms. Sproule: — I'm just wondering if you could table that or get a photocopy made.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — We can get you guys, absolutely we can get you a list. It's all here; I can get you copies of this.

Ms. Sproule: — The staff here can help us out with that.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So let me just clarify, Mr. Chair. These are projected approvals. So we don't have the list for the last two years of what was approved, but we will get that for you and get that over to your office. I don't want to release this until it's approved.

Ms. Sproule: — I appreciate that. Okay. Then the next page on the '13-14 plan talks about access to sport, cultural heritage, and recreation experiences. And about halfway down there is:

Continue working on improving commercial opportunities with the private sector and provincial parks that will improve visitor experiences such as:

fixed roof accommodation including a lodge and rental cabins at Greig Lake . . .

Are these, the lodge and rental cabins, is that a private sector enterprise, or is that something the ministry is involved in?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's a private sector entity called an eco-lodge. You should really go up and have a look at it. It's fascinating. And we had an opportunity to tour it last summer when it still . . . And I'm not sure where it's at now. I'm assuming it's a lot further along. But this is a mom and a son, the mom worked for the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs, I believe, for years. And so she worked because she . . . Her name escapes me, so I apologize for calling

her she but . . .

A Member: — Shelly Pikowicz.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Shelly Pikowicz. So because of her experience in dealing with various First Nations, she was well versed in duty to consult and working with the local First Nations in building this eco-lodge. And literally her and her son are building it by hand. And it sits right on the shores at Greig Lake, and to my understanding it'll be complete in July. I told her that we should have a caucus meeting up there when it's complete because it just was such a neat building and the concept and the things that they're going to do there and what they're trying to attract there.

But it's a private sector development that we provided lease land for to develop this particular eco-lodge.

Ms. Sproule: — I actually worked with Shelly for a number of years when I worked for Indian Affairs as a federal . . . Yes, so if anyone can do it, Shelly can do it. We'll definitely want to go visit that.

I'm wondering about . . . The RSM assumed operations at the T.rex Discovery Centre in Eastend to safeguard their long-term sustainability. I assume there's maybe some financial difficulties at the Eastend centre that were being tough to manage. What's the status of that?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well there again it was one of those issues I inherited when I became minister because it's been . . . And different ministers prior to me had tried different solutions. But the reality is, is that there were certain promises made to that centre with respect to payments of rent, if you will, that just simply never came to fruition from the government. And so they struggled financially because — and I want to choose my words carefully here — because, you know, they had very grand visions.

And I don't ever want to rain on someone's parade with respect to having a vision of being like the Tyrrell centre in Drumheller. But getting to Eastend is a little bit different than getting to Drumheller. And so you know, knowing that, knowing your market, knowing where you're trying to attract folks down there to pay admission to go in to see this visitation centre was difficult marketing it. So they needed some funding stability.

And you know, I give full credit to my deputy minister and other officials who worked . . . and Harold Bryant through the RSM and the paleontologists that are employed through the ministry that work down there, is both a research centre and then the actual . . . I don't know if you've ever been there or not. But they worked very, very hard with the friends of the T.rex Centre, which is a group of locals from Eastend who are wonderful people, care very deeply about their community and care very deeply about paleontology and Scotty.

So we were able to I think through a new arrangement provide some funding stability for a five-year period that allowed them to alleviate some of their debt, which is where the major concern was in keeping the place viable. And then I was able to go down with Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor when they

actually opened up the replica of Scotty. And it was an intimidating evening because where we were seated at the head table, his head was like right there looking like he was about to eat us, and it is massive. And it was awe-inspiring to see the local community come together to put on this kind of old-fashioned kind of fowl supper, if you will, with Her Honour. And it was just a great evening.

[21:45]

So all that being said, is that we, the officials, worked diligently with, and I met with the friends of the T.rex Discovery Centre on a number of occasions, and to the great credit of the MLA, Mr. Elhard, and the Premier, who has been there a number of times and had promised them that we would find a solution. We kind of rolled up our sleeves and found a solution, and that's the stability you'll see there for four or five years for sure.

Ms. Sproule: — What is the amount of the funding that was provided for that five-year period?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So it's built into our accommodation cost because this was . . . the initial arrangement was in last year's budget. But for this year's budget it's . . . So the arrangement we have now is that we actually operate the facility on their behalf. We have I think it's a couple of paleontologists too that are housed there doing research — and if you ever want to go down, let us know and we'll certainly ensure that you get a tour of what they're doing — and then the museum part. So we pay them rental accommodations of \$236,000 for '14-15 plus our costs associated with staff which would operate regardless whether they operate out of the RSM or down there. And we also utilize that facility for some storage for artifacts that otherwise would be housed at the RSM.

Ms. Sproule: — And at the end of the five-year period I'm assuming then their debt concerns will be alleviated. Will you wait and see at that point in time? Is it a goal to have them self-sufficient again? Or is there enough of a market for that to be realistic?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I think that's what we're learning as we go along with different marketing programs now, and the fact that we have the actual replica up is a big difference. There was another replica made of the entire T. Rex, or just his head . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . the entire T. Rex that is now on display in Australia, and another offer pending for another replica for . . . can we say?

A Member: — Actually it's not for T. Rex. It's for another cast.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — For another cast. So at the end of the five years, I mean, to get back to your question, I think it's premature right now to determine what we would do at the end of the five years. But if through different marketing and where we see visitation continue to grow, and if they can be sustainable and viable, absolutely I think we'd want to turn it back over to the friends of the T.rex Discovery Centre. But you know, as well the debt situation will have taken care of itself by then.

Ms. Sproule: — Near the end I guess, there's a reference to —

in the same '13-14 document — to facilitate the return and co-management of sacred and culturally sensitive objects at the RSM by working with First Nations communities and clients with the government's policy on repatriation. Has that had any activity in the past year, or where's that at?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well that's an ongoing process with the province. The province has the mandate . . . The province owns any archaeological finds in the province and so the RSM has the . . .

Ms. Sproule: — That would include my dad's arrowheads, just for the record.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — He'll be texting you again now.

So through the RSM, we have that responsibility. For example, you might recall a few months back, SaskEnergy was building a line and they came across some burial remains. And not knowing whether it was perhaps a murder scene or, you know, how old the bones were or whatever, our RSM staff was called in to work with the local First Nations and the RCMP to determine that these were, I think, were 500-year-old bones . . . heritage branch, sorry. Heritage branch went out and worked with them to determine that they were, you know, not a recent deceased individual that . . .

So I'm kind of mixing apples and oranges here as well between heritage and the archaeological mandate of the RSM, but that's an ongoing process that as people discover things in the province, then we have the ability to work with them in the preservation of those archaeological finds.

Ms. Sproule: — I just understood this bullet to say that these were objects already at the RSM and that they would be repatriated. Am I misreading that?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So again if artifacts are brought to the province's attention that have First Nations significance, then we work with the First Nations communities to preserve these artifacts or in fact repatriate them to the First Nations if they so in fact desire. I'm informed in a lot of cases they ask the RSM to take care of them and preserve them and do that kind of work.

Not all that different from . . . I don't know if you've been down to the petroglyphs in St. Victor Petroglyphs down south of Moose Jaw, but we've been working with local First Nations there as well. And these carvings on the rock, some of them are I think 1,000 years old or estimated to be 1,000 years old, one of the very few petroglyphs in North America that are still — I believe they are in Mr. Huyghebaert's constituency — still very visible and tell stories.

And so we've been working with the local Friends of St. Victor Petroglyphs as well as First Nations, consulting with elders there, and they have agreed that we can come in and do a casting process to preserve them. And they'll be stored at the RSM such that if, because through weather and erosion and that, these rocks will eventually erode and fall. And they've had some of them that have cratered off and smashed at the bottom of, it's an old buffalo jump there. And when the rock does fissure enough, it's going to break off and smash, and these

glyphs will be lost forever.

And that's exactly what the First Nations wants to happen, is let nature take its course. But in the meantime if we can preserve them in some form or fashion, that's what we're working with the . . . record them, and that's what we're doing now.

Ms. Sproule: — I had assumed this was a specific project for that year, but it sounds like it's an ongoing piece of work. All right. On the next page there's a strategy identified. It's to "Sustain a long-term Lean culture [capital L] of continuous improvement and public service renewal in the Ministry." And the key actions were:

. . . to find innovative ways to be more efficient through:
[and then the bullets]

the Ministry's Leaning the Way initiative . . . [and]
the introduction of a Lean management system pilot in
two areas of the Ministry.

Could you provide the committee with an update on the costs of those projects and the status of them?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'll ask the deputy minister, Lin Gallagher, to brief you on that.

Ms. Gallagher: — So the ministry had designated that we wanted to use lean as a continuous improvement tool at our ministry. So we're looking for ways to work smarter and more efficiently, and in many cases we found dollar savings. Generally our objectives were focused on improving our processes in order to free up capacity for work so that they could be dedicated to work that is more value added, looking at client and customer service.

So since 2010 we've had 14 lean events. We've trained all of our senior management staff, approximately 100 employees in the basics of lean principles and methodologies. And well we have since 2010 in the ministry, we've spent \$166,750 on lean consulting, although 71,000 of that money was come back to the ministry from the productivity fund. So we've spent a net of \$95,000 in the ministry.

Our most significant project to date is we were moving from one . . . We were in actually two buildings. We were at the Delta as well as we were at the Lloyd Place at 3211 Albert Street. And so we did what's called a lean 3P [production preparation process] as part of that work. And the project was very significant, and in terms of improving our overall effectiveness, like we had opportunities to join parts of our ministry where they might share similar equipment; they might do similar work. So it was a very interesting process to look . . . dissect what our work was and pull it back together very effectively.

We were also able to find some significant savings as part of that work. In the new space we used 20 per cent less space than we had previously, and that resulted in accommodation savings of about \$400,000 annually. And so we also, we reduced our on-site storage as part of a lean event. We went through and we reduced by 40 per cent all of the storage work that we're doing. We were able to move, through a lean event, 100 per cent of our

ministry now complying with government record management systems. We digitized many of what we would have in our park system in particular, a lot of our maps, as well as in our heritage branch, and documents were all paper copies and stored over large areas. So as part of the work that we did, we reduced more than 1,200 boxes of paper. So either they were paper that we didn't need any longer, or it was shipped off to off-site storage.

We've improved, through lean events, our effectiveness in managing our contracts and accountability relationships with our third party stakeholders. We've also streamlined and improved our capital planning and delivery processes through value stream mapping. So in those kinds of events, we go through, and I don't know if you've ever participated in a lean activity, but in a value stream event you decide what are all the different pieces that you work through and where can you find some savings. And in our capital planning, you know, we knew that we needed to do a better job on managing our asset, and we're hoping to . . . We haven't realized those benefits yet, but we are hoping to move forward with construction partners in doing a better job of that.

We also did another review of how we bring on our staff. We go from a smaller number of staff to increase almost 1,000 in a couple of months in the parks system, and so we wanted to go through and lean our spring start-up process so that everybody gets the right kind of OH & S [occupational health and safety] training, everybody's in the system so they can get paid, that everyone has the right orientation information. So those are some of the benefits that we've realized in the ministry as part of the lean work that we've done.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you for that. The \$166,000, was that since 2010 or was that just last year?

Ms. Gallagher: — That was what our ministry has spent on lean since we initiated our work.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. I know that you gave a number of examples, and the one that struck me was the idea of reducing 1,200 boxes of paper through mapping. I know that's something that's happening, even in my own office. I scan things and I don't keep paper. So I didn't need a lean process to figure that out. And I think many of the things you described are very commonsensical types of things, including I think the move from two buildings. And I know you did a lean 3P process there, but were you contemplating that move prior to hiring a lean consultant?

Ms. Gallagher: — We knew that our space was coming due, and we wanted to look at our methodology around consolidating into one building. We were certainly feeling that, as a ministry, we wanted to be a cohesive group and work co-operatively together. So that was our goal, was to bring ourselves together.

What we would have learned through the lean work that we did through a 3P, it was a unique example. And we worked with architects as well as the Central Services group who also found it very beneficial to talk about, rather than just space and where we were going to put people, the 3P methodology requires that you look at the value streams that you have as a ministry and where it's appropriate to put people together.

And as I mentioned so we might have . . . A large plotter is a piece of equipment that we use to print out those large maps that you see. So both our parks branch use that, as well as our heritage branch would use that. So as part of this methodology, we would have determined that it would make sense to put those two groups together. So instead of having numerous plotters on different areas of the ministry, we could combine those and have that access.

So those are just some of the kinds of savings that we would have realized by going through that methodology and utilizing that expertise, that the 3P required us to think differently about how we approached it.

Ms. Sproule: — It sounds familiar. And I've been involved in some modern architectural approaches when buildings are being designed and that's, I think they call it, it's not a vignette it's a . . . I forget the term. It starts with a V, but modern architects use a very similar approach when they're doing design for buildings. I think the children's hospital in Saskatoon used that kind of an approach, and I wish I could think of the word. Anyways I guess my point, political point that I'm trying to make is that it doesn't require lean to come up with some of these ideas. But I think \$166,000 is a fairly reasonable cost considering we've heard so much higher costs in other ministries.

[22:00]

Ms. Gallagher: — I'd offer . . . You talk about common sense. And I, you know, I've been involved in many of these lean events, and I'm always impressed at the end. You think, wow, why didn't we think of that? And so what my impression with the lean is, it creates an environment where you have to go through, ask yourselves certain questions, and at the end of the day the answers may not be ones that you would have thought are unusual. But what you will think of is, why weren't we coming to those conclusions? And without the methodology, and whether it's lean or another structured tool where you go in and dissect the problem and then pull it back together again, you know, we're just . . . You would not necessarily, without that discipline, find those solutions.

And some of the solutions that we found, one of the other examples would be with our heritage work. You know, it's a simple issue, but we were receiving applications on a fax machine and then they were going to be put into another documentation by somebody who has to keyboard it in. As part of the lean analysis, you go through and you say — there's an aha moment — why aren't we electronically inputting that data so you save a lot of steps? And yes, they seem like logical steps, but unless you go through the rigour, you're not finding them. And it's always a very impressive outcome when you go to the reporting back out.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I might just add as well I mean, and I know there's been lots of terms tossed around and folks are having a lot of debate about the lean process and terminologies. But I've been on a couple of wall walks, one of the processes that's involved with lean, and both at the ministry and as well as part of the child and family agenda that the Ministry of Social Services is heading up, that the assistant deputy minister Twyla sits on. I'm not as a minister on that ministerial committee, but I

have officials on the officials committee and gone through and been invited to go through what they call the wall walk where you do determine your priorities with respect to strategic plans and how you're prioritizing things within the ministry or in an inter-ministry process like child and family agenda where Parks, Culture and Sport has a great deal to do with the health of children and exercise and getting outdoors and all those kinds of things.

But you know, you were making a political point and I would make a political point that if it made that much common sense to reduce the size of government in its footprint, it should've been done years ago, and it wasn't done years ago. So if it took this kind of process to determine that we didn't need the office space that we had, then I'm all for a management process that allows us to come to the conclusions that the deputy outlined.

And we're able to save the taxpayers, you know, in excess of \$400,000 a year and not without some pain, mind you, but with employees having to change their ways and obviously take smaller office spaces. And I've been over to our ministry, and you're welcome to come over any time as the critic and have a look around and see how we've configured that particular area in the Albert Street location, but you're right that common sense would dictate you ought to have done this, but common sense didn't prevail for a long time on some of these decisions.

Ms. Sproule: — I did remember the term in the architectural world. It's called a charette and it's a very similar process to what you're . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That doesn't start with a V.

Ms. Sproule: — I know, completely. I was convinced it started with a V and that's why I couldn't remember it. It's a charette starting with c-h. And I've certainly been through some of . . . I assume a wall walk is some sort of mapping process where you put everything up on the wall. And I've been through that when I worked at ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] in 2003. So I guess my point is you don't need l-e-a-n in capital letters to have some of these techniques and they've been used very successfully, I would say, even prior to your government coming in, because I know I went through that process in ISC in 2003.

You know, I think a lot of your comments regarding the size of the public service and those things, it often is the tail wagging the dog. And I know the government did make a conscious decision to reduce the size of the public service by 15 per cent and lean has been an effective way of achieving that goal. But politically speaking, I mean I would submit that was the tail wagging the dog and that there have been significant cuts in services as well as a result of that. So that's my political pitch on that and if you want to respond, fine. I can move on to the next question too. Okay.

I guess what the question would be is that in, I'm moving now to the 2014-15 plan, and there is no mention of lean in this plan, so is your lean consulting completed or are your pilot . . . You said piloting, your system pilot in two areas. Is that completed or is there more work being done on that?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm advised that there are no plans to

engage any lean consultants or lean external contracts in this coming fiscal year. We've developed internal capacity, which is one of the things that the lean process was designed to do was to build some capacity internally to carry on with these kinds of processes. And that's what our intentions are for this coming fiscal year.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. On the bottom of page 4 of this year's plan, there are some key actions indicated there: "Promote visitation to Saskatchewan by" and then there's a "Saskatchewan showcase in Charlottetown" at a conference. It looks like it's called PEI [Prince Edward Island] 2014. And then the Saskatchewaner position. Those look like tourism activities to me. And is this something that the ministry is undertaking, or is that something that Tourism will be doing?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Your observation is correct. Again this is kind of a cross-ministry; a couple of these are cross-ministry. You might be aware when we announced the full-time, one-year pilot with the Saskatchewaner, it was done in conjunction with Tourism Saskatchewan and with the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture. Because we are, those four entities — my ministry, the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Tourism Saskatchewan — are paying a quarter of the costs associated with the full-time, one-year pilot with the Saskatchewaner who's not only going to promote tourism activities in the province . . .

As a matter of fact, I saw her this morning at the citizenship swearing-in ceremony. She was wandering around taking pictures so I assume that she's probably going to be posting something about these. I don't know if you were at the swearing-in or not but . . . Well I saw other members there. I saw other members there, so . . .

Ms. Sproule: — I'm thinking of the citizenship thing, sorry.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's what I was talking about. In any event, I was at the back and I didn't . . . I thought I saw all both sides of the aisle there. But in any event . . . So she, Caitlin Taylor, the young lady that's the Saskatchewaner, is not only promoting tourism activities in the province but is promoting employment opportunities and business opportunities and celebrating communities both large and small, and the way of life, the quality of life, those kinds of things. And one of the emphases is going to be on agriculture.

You, as the Ag critic, would know this, that there is a growing need for skilled labour in the agriculture sector, a growing need for people to take over farms. And one of Caitlin's jobs is going to be promoting what agriculture is all about, that it's not what people think if they have some kind of preconceived notion of what agriculture's about, if they live in other countries — that it's a highly modernized, technologically driven industry now that can be obviously very lucrative and has a great way of life if you've grown up on the farm and want to get involved in that.

On the partnering with PEI, again this is a joint promotional event that promotes pride of place, if you will — so we like to use the term — of Saskatchewan. So the province of Prince Edward Island, prior to the sesquicentennial that's coming up for the country of Canada, 150th anniversary, where the founding fathers met in . . . And I say fathers because in the

time it was the founding fathers met in Charlottetown to — someone will tweet in that that is an inappropriate comment — met in Charlottetown to start developing the formation of Canada.

And so the Prince Edward Island is hosting every province that wants to participate in a week-long event during the summer leading up to . . . Because they started out two years from the sesquicentennial, and the province of Saskatchewan is going to be hosted the week prior to the confederation of first ministers. I think that's the COF [Council of the Federation]. I'm thinking of confederation of first ministers, the Premiers' meeting, is meeting in . . . Council of Federation, I'm sorry. Council of the Federation is meeting in Prince Edward Island later this summer and so Saskatchewan's week is going to be the week before.

The RCMP is going to be out there in full. I think the Musical Ride's going to be there and promoting the RCMP and the RCMP Heritage Centre . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh I'm sorry. Getting ahead of myself here. So they're working out details of things that will be in PEI and celebrating Saskatchewan's week, if you will, and so that's what that reference is in that particular bullet point.

Ms. Sproule: — And is that something that your ministry is covering all the costs of or is Tourism involved in that as well?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Shared between Tourism Saskatchewan and the Ministry of the Economy and PCS, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. I think I can ask questions next year about the costs on that because it will be real at that time. All right.

Just a couple more questions on the lottery agreement. I know you renewed it recently and that it's now for five years, and I really want to commend the ministry for that five-year commitment. Having been involved in lotteries funding events for several years, it was really difficult for the year-to-year process because often we didn't know if we could go ahead with our event without the support. And that's back when the festivals committee was managed under the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society. And this kind of commitment of stability is incredibly important to the sector. I can attest to that.

I think I asked earlier about where the revenues from the lotteries show up in terms of estimates. And I know you said . . . I have to refer to that now. The 3 per cent, 3.7 per cent reflects about \$7.5 million in this year's budget, and that goes to the GRF, right? So it doesn't show up anywhere in terms of the estimates on the votes.

In terms of the lotteries dollars in general, where do those funds go? Do they go directly to Sask Sport? Does the Government of Saskatchewan touch those monies?

Mr. Banadyga: — Darin Banadyga. Just looking at the '12-13 summary, which is the most recently completed year for the Lotteries Trust Fund, 53.3 million was available to grant. That was divided into a few different programs: the Community Development Fund at 4.8 million that year; the community grant program available to municipalities and First Nations at

5.1 million; and core funding to sport, culture, and recreation at 43.4 million. That was further divided into the sections of the trust: the sports section, managed by Sask Sport; the culture section, managed by Sask Culture; and the recreation section, managed by SPRA [Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association].

Ms. Sproule: — And what was the breakdown for each one of those three areas?

Mr. Banadyga: — For the sports section in that year it was 22.2 million, culture section was 15.4 million, and the recreation section 5.8 million.

Ms. Sproule: — I just want to get a sense of context here in terms of historically. I'm not sure when this fund first started, but I think it was in the early '90s or late '80s.

Mr. Banadyga: — In the '70s.

Ms. Sproule: — Was it in the '70s? And then at that time, who was receiving the funding of that? It started out with just Sask Sport? Is that correct?

Mr. Banadyga: — I believe that the other organizations did join at some point in history. Yes, it started with Sask Sport as kind of an overall organization. And as other organizations formed and became, had capacity to deal with members or with organizations underneath them, the culture section with SaskCulture, and a recreation section with SPRA were formed eventually.

[22:15]

Ms. Sproule: — So that's the core elements. Now you indicated the CDF, Community Development Fund. And I put the initials down here, CGP [community grant program]. What was . . .

Mr. Banadyga: — Yes. Community grant program at 5.1, and the Community Development Fund at 4.8 million.

Ms. Sproule: — When were those agencies added to the fund? Do you have any idea?

Mr. Banadyga: — I don't, on the history of them. They're just basically funds or envelopes of money that are taken as we call them, tri-global funds. And it's funds that all three sections . . . Basically they fund activities in sport, culture, and recreation and so they're available to communities.

The community grant program of course goes out to the broad-based, to the municipalities and the First Nations bands at 5.1 million that year. The Community Development Fund goes out to the nine sport, culture, and recreation districts. And they fund programs such as Dream Brokers and youth experience program and of course the northern school community recreation coordinator program in northern Saskatchewan.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. These are I think new since I was involved in some of these programs. And I know one of the concerns always was sort of the whittling down or erosion of the funding and, you know, I mean this is obviously monies that

go through gambling I guess to these groups. And my position has always been I would like to see more support for sport and culture and recreation from our actual tax dollars rather than just relying on lottery funds for these types of grants, I guess.

But in terms of the Community Development Fund and the community grant program, who administers those?

Mr. Banadyga: — Those grants are administered through the lottery trust fund and there is a board that assists with those adjudications of those funds. So a board of volunteers basically.

Ms. Sproule: — And how are those volunteer board members appointed?

Mr. Banadyga: — They're appointed from the global organizations, from Sask Sport, SPRA, and SaskCulture.

Ms. Sproule: — Sport, culture, SPRA. And I'm just trying to get a sense of how these two agencies, the development fund and the grant program, are different than what Sport, Culture and Rec are doing themselves. Like why are they split off that way? Why is that \$10 million allocated that way?

Mr. Banadyga: — Historically, I guess there was a need to fund communities and so basically it's a funding by population or per capita funding within the community grant program. That program has increased significantly over the last number of years. So that basically is given out on a per capita basis at that \$5.1 million.

The Community Development Fund is something that on the districts, on the sport, culture, and rec funded districts, it helps with those districts and their operations and with the promotion of sport, culture, and rec programming within those individual districts.

It is separate, but also there is a lot of partnerships and lots of crossover between funded programs within the sport section or the culture section or the recreation section.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I think that, if I might, Mr. Chair, it's a good question. And probably the easiest way to explain the difference . . . In a community grant program, it'd be a blanket amount of money given to the community of Rose Valley, that Rose Valley will determine how it's going to be spent inside the community. Whereas the globals, Sask Sport, SaskCulture, and Sask Parks and Recreation fund individual organizations or activities.

And so if the town of Rose Valley determines that it wants to spend its community grant program on specific programs in that community that perhaps one of the three globals isn't funding already, then they can direct those dollars. So it's blanket dollars to those communities. And there is a number of them, including First Nations across the province, that they have some monies to be provided for their blanket use, if you will, whereas the other three globals have specific programs that have to be on what they call the minister's eligibility list, that are recommended to the minister for funding.

Ms. Sproule: — Are you aware of any concerns coming from the core groups about the, you know . . . I would say this is

somewhat fractured money then because you're spreading out the way it's divvied up. In my view it appears to be somewhat fractured. So do you get any concerns from the core groups about these programs and requests to maybe manage it themselves, or are they happy with it?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I would say to the contrary. They are extraordinarily happy with this arrangement. I've got letters in my office from different organizations aside from the globals in thanking the government for this renewed lottery licence agreement for a five-year term. I'm told, and I was at a recent ministers' meeting where we talked about this kind of . . . federal-provincial ministers' meeting where we had some discussions around this type of funding arrangement. It is the envy of the nation for sport and culture and recreational groups in other provinces, wishing they had this kind of arrangement with their own provincial entity.

Ms. Sproule: — All right. I just know that . . . I'm thinking about situations where cultural dollars are being accessed through the fund and they're supporting what I would call very grassroots or organic initiatives where people come up with a dream and a plan and an idea, and then they apply for the funding and make it happen. Whereas when you have funding through organized bodies like municipalities, sometimes it's not quite the same process in terms of the creative process.

And I don't know if that's making any sense but sometimes it's more . . . And I've seen this in the festivals area where if you see someone come up with a dream and they create a festival because they have this vision, it's quite a bit of a different product than a rec board saying, we want to increase tourism and so we're going to have a festival. So it's sort of the where are you coming from with the idea, and it does create a different result. So I'm always concerned when culture dollars are, I would say, disbursed through a municipal fund or sport or rec, I suppose, as far as that goes, because often their goals and needs are quite different than the actual cultural entity or the sporting entity.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes. You know, if you have specific examples, we can take it off line. I'd be delighted to look into if a concern has been brought to your attention as an MLA specifically or even someone involved in the arts and cultural scene.

But what I would say is, again it's one of these processes that I judge by how many complaints I get. And you know, no, two years as a minister almost and this is, with the renewal of the lottery licence, another five-year agreement that gives them stability. And I always tell them, I say, now you've got to go out and market your product too, because the rising tide lifts all boats in this case. So the more lottery tickets you sell in the province of Saskatchewan, the better off your organizations are going to do. Because government simply takes its 3.75 per cent and if more lottery ticket sales occur, we get a little bit more money in the GRF. But for the most part, the dollars . . . Well not for the most part. The vast majority of the dollars go to these organizations.

And the adjudication process by which the dollars are allocated, regardless if it's sport, culture, or recreation is done by the volunteers. It's done by the front-line workers that, you know,

support 1,200 directly funded groups, 68 provincial sport organizations, 31 provincial cultural organizations, 32 provincial recreational organizations, 9 sport and culture recreation districts, 10 tribal councils including the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], 1,027 communities, 330,000 volunteers, 500,000 registered members, and 12,000 local groups that benefit. So it is a wide dispersion of dollars across the entire province that covers the entire gamut.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. Just one last pseudo-political question and that's, are you at all concerned that all this is coming from gambling?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well you know, it's an interesting debate. And I think, my view is, is that you could bring it all in-house in government, that would be one philosophy, and then allocate the dollars. And then you as minister will be responsible for allocating these dollars and picking who ought to receive what and when they receive it. And your colleagues would be lobbied if you were government, as my colleagues would be lobbied. I don't think we want that responsibility as legislators because I think it . . . You do get into some, to the politics of it all. And the distribution of funds relative to constituencies and those kinds of things, that can happen. I'm not suggesting it would, but it could happen.

Secondly, if you don't . . . I think a valuable use of lottery proceeds . . . People are going to buy lottery tickets, whether they buy them in Saskatchewan or not buy them in Saskatchewan. People are going to go online and gamble, whether they go down to the casino or they go online and do it. And I think if you have education programs . . . And we do have education programs in the province for people who might have a gambling problem.

You know, I'm a free marketer. We probably differ on our opinion on that, and that's fine. But you know, if I choose to spend money on a 6/49 ticket for this Saturday, I'm quite pleased that the vast majority of those dollars, outside of the prize pool, is going to help out organizations that are involved in sport, culture, and recreation, for kids and adults alike.

Ms. Sproule: — Thanks. Just a couple of follow-ups on that. And I think as for concern about the demand and making those decisions as to where the money goes, I mean certainly you could set up a government body like Creative Saskatchewan that would then make those decisions. So I think you could . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, but that's not lottery dollars. That's government dollars. So I mean for the lottery, there would be a similar process that would be available to you.

And I guess the other thing for me is it's always been a concern that the lottery dollars go to culture, sport, and rec. And why not have the lottery dollars go to the Ministry of Agriculture and have the culture, sport, and rec be supported by taxpayers' dollars rather than gambling dollars? Like why is it these agencies are the ones that . . . And this is not a decision your government started. I appreciate that. But I'm just always curious. And I've always wondered about that in terms of, you know, why is it culture, parks, and sport and not other government programs, health or education? And that's rhetorical. You don't have to answer that if you don't want to.

We're getting near the end. I just want to turn to public accounts from '12-13, and there's a couple of questions I have there about some of the expenditures on page 224 . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — We don't have the public accounts document here but shoot and we'll . . .

Ms. Sproule: — Maybe you'll be familiar with these. These are some of the goods and services for over \$50,000, and one was BB Consulting Services for 60,000. What for?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm told it's a consulting firm that is expert in GIS [geographic information system] mapping. They do all the GIS mapping for our parks.

Ms. Sproule: — I know Information Services Corporation does that kind of mapping as well. So is this a provincial within Saskatchewan service, or are they from out of province?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — It is a local Regina business.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you. The next one I was wondering about is the Brown Communications Group. There was a \$132,000 contract.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So Brown Communications is the agency of record for the ministry that does all of our communications and advertising for the various components of the ministry.

Ms. Sproule: — Where are they from?

A Member: — Regina.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Albert Street.

Ms. Sproule: — Albert Street, specifically. Flynn Canada Ltd., 316,000?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's our barbeque tender, build barbeques for the parks.

Ms. Sproule: — Would that be a normal expenditure, 316,000 for barbeques, or is that . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — And picnic tables. We built a lot of barbeques and picnic tables.

Ms. Sproule: — That would be an average expense over the year, every year?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So again with the, and I'm not being political here, but the enhanced investment on the capital side over the last few years, I'm advised that that number's gone up considerably because we've had a concerted effort in renewing our picnic tables and our barbeques in the parks.

Ms. Sproule: — And are they from Saskatchewan, Flynn Canada?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Yes.

Ms. Sproule: — Yes, okay. McNair Business Development

Inc., \$99,000.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — McNair was the company that was hired that worked with the development of Creative Saskatchewan through the entire consultation process. They're the business consulting firm from Regina here. I believe Mr. McNair was in the gallery yesterday for the JDC West thing, the group that was introduced. So McNair Business Consulting was the firm hired to do the full consultation process for the development of Creative Saskatchewan and to help Creative Saskatchewan get going.

[22:30]

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. The one group I was reading from was Innova Learning. Is that part of this McNair? No, sorry. That's a completely different thing I haven't even talked about. That was Culture On The Go. Probe, I think it was called. It was the final report in 2012, December 31st, 2012. Probe Research Inc. did the final report on the consultation. Are they part of McNair, or is that a separate company?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — A separate company that facilitated the consultations.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay, so they just did the consultations. Okay. Perspect Management Consulting, 244,000?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So I am advised that they were hired by the former deputy minister to do change management projects with inside the ministry, employee engagement, and described as change management processes with inside the ministry. A local firm as well.

Ms. Sproule: — And that wasn't associated with a lean exercise at all?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I'm told not, no.

Ms. Sproule: — Research Casting International, \$330,000.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — They did the cast of T.rex Scotty that went to Australia . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, our own. Sorry. That's right. We sold the one that went to Australia.

Ms. Sproule: — Right. And that was done in 2012 then?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Completed then, I believe.

Ms. Sproule: — That was T.rex. And then Westmark Consulting LLP, 65,000.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That is the lean consultant.

Ms. Sproule: — That's your lean consultant. And where are they from?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — BC [British Columbia].

Ms. Sproule: — And SaskWater, 93,000?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I stand to be corrected on that. We'll check on that. We believe that SaskWater is responsible for the

levels of water, the various lakes within the provincial park system, and at times they have to pump levels because we have rising waters obviously in the springtime. And I'm advised that it had to do with Pike Lake and Blackstrap Lake, and the drawdown on the reservoir system there. But we're going to check on that for sure, but we believe that that's what that charge was for.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. I've seen their weir at Makwa Lake and I know they operate the weir there too. And one last question: I see that the Saskatchewan snowmobile fund gets about, well they got 1.6 million then and I think this year is budgeted for 1.3 million. Is this an annual fee for the management of snowmobile trails?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — That's correct. It's a flow-through fee. So if you register your snowmobile and you want to partake of the trails, you pay a fee, a \$70 fee. And it's collected through SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and flows through back to the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association to manage their trails. And they manage, I believe it's about 9,800, almost 10,000 kilometres of trails in the province.

Ms. Sproule: — It's a lot of trails, is right. Is that a cost recovery? Or is there . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — It's a flow through.

Ms. Sproule: — So that's, there's no . . .

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — So if I register my snowmobile up at Candle Lake and I want to go on the trails, I pay two fees. I pay an SGI premium for liability insurance on my snowmobile, and then I pay a \$70 fee that flows directly . . . SGI collects it on their behalf and it flows directly through to the snowmobile association.

Ms. Sproule: — So there's no cost to the taxpayers for the maintenance of these trails then.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Correct.

Ms. Sproule: — Okay. Mr. Chair, that would be the extent of my questions for this vote.

The Chair: — Well thank you, Ms. Sproule. I noted the thought of the lotto dollars going toward agriculture. Growing up on a farm, I thought that there was enough gambling in farming as it was. Hope we don't go down that . . . Well, Mr. Minister, do you have any comments you would like to conclude the evening?

An. Hon. Member: — Are we voting it off tonight?

The Chair: — No, we're not voting it off.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well I would just simply say, Mr. Chair, thank you and thank you to committee members and thank you to Ms. Sproule for a three and half hour discussion. I thought you . . . I appreciated your insightful questions and the manner in which you asked officials questions and myself. So I appreciate that.

And to the legislative staff who are here late evenings during the spring session all the time, I appreciate the work that they do. And most importantly I appreciate the assistance and help from officials. You know, I am very, very ably served by the professional public servants in the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and the Provincial Capital Commission.

But most importantly the people of Saskatchewan are very ably served by these professional public servants. And so they do a lot of work without, well that I hear of, any griping to me anyway. But they just they take a lot of pride in our parks, and they take a lot of pride in the various sections of the ministry that they're involved in. And I'm really appreciative of their efforts on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Sproule.

Ms. Sproule: — I'd like to thank the Minister and the officials for the forthright and frank responses and bearing with me as I go through this process for the first time with the ministry. You obviously care greatly about what you do, and I think the province and the people benefit from it. So thank you.

The Chair: — Thank you, Ms. Sproule. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and all the officials. And a special thank you to the committee members. This committee will now adjourn till tomorrow at 3 p.m.

[The committee adjourned at 22:37.]