



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Families and Communities

Ministry of Culture
Consideration of Main Estimates

Tuesday, April 15, 2014
6:59 p.m.

Transcript No. 28-2-6

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Second Session**

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

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Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Participant

Ministry of Culture
Hon. Heather Klimchuk, Minister

6:59 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

[Ms Olesen in the chair]

**Ministry of Culture
Consideration of Main Estimates**

The Chair: Well, good evening, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order and welcome everyone. The committee has under consideration the estimates of the Ministry of Culture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015.

I'd ask that we go around the table and introduce ourselves for the record. Madam Minister, when we get to you, if you'd please introduce your staff as well.

My name is Cathy Olesen, MLA for Sherwood Park and chair of this committee.

Mr. Anglin: Joe Anglin, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Dr. Brown: Good evening. I'm Neil Brown from Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill, and I'm sitting in this evening for Genia Leskiw, the MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Ms DeLong: Alana DeLong, MLA for Calgary-Bow.

Mr. VanderBurg: George VanderBurg, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

Mr. Eggen: Good evening. I'm David Eggen, MLA for Edmonton-Calder.

Ms Blakeman: Hi, everyone. Laurie Blakeman, and I'd like to welcome each and every one of you to my fabulous constituency of Edmonton-Centre even though it's snowing in mid-April.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Do you want me to go?

The Chair: Yes, Minister, please.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. I'm Heather Klimchuk, and I'll just introduce my team here. I've got to my left Shannon Marchand, one of my ADMs; Ernie Hui, my deputy minister; Brian Fischer, another ADM; Pam Arnston, my financial support; Trish Filevich, my press secretary; David Link, another ADM in the historical area; Beryl Cullum, who runs the communications for the department; Donna Chaw; Joanne Hugo from my Legislature office; Reise O'Hara, my chief of staff; and Margaret Batty, who works in the financial section of my department.

Mr. Stier: Hi. Good evening. I'm Pat Stier, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Pedersen: Good evening, everyone. It's Blake Pedersen, MLA for Medicine Hat.

Mr. Wilson: Hello. Jeff Wilson, MLA, Calgary-Shaw.

Ms Fenske: Jacquie Fenske, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville.

Mr. Sandhu: Good evening. Peter Sandhu, MLA, Edmonton-Manning.

Mrs. Jablonski: Hello, everyone. Mary Anne Jablonski, Red Deer-North.

Mrs. Fritz: Yvonne Fritz, Calgary-Cross. Welcome.

Mr. McAllister: Bruce McAllister, Chestermere-Rocky View.

The Chair: Thank you. Once again I'd like to confirm for the record that pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1) to (2.3) official substitutions for this meeting are: Mr. Eggen for Ms Notley, Dr. Brown for Mrs. Leskiw, and Mr. Anglin will be sitting in as deputy chair for Mrs. Forsyth.

Please note that the microphones are operated by *Hansard*, and we'd ask that BlackBerrys and phones be turned off or set to silent as they may interfere with the audiofeed.

Hon. members, as you know, the Assembly approved amendments to the standing orders that impact consideration of the main estimates. Before we proceed with consideration of the main estimates for the Ministry of Culture, I would like to review briefly the standing orders governing the speaking rotation. As provided for in Standing Order 59.01(6), the rotation is as follows. The minister may make opening comments not to exceed 10 minutes. For the hour that follows, members of the Official Opposition, Wildrose, and the minister may speak. For the next 20 minutes the members of the third party, Alberta Liberals, if any, and the minister may speak. For the next 20 minutes the members of the fourth party, the New Democrats, if any, and the minister may speak. For the next 20 minutes the members of any other party represented in the Assembly or any independent members and the minister may speak. For the next 20 minutes private members of the government caucus and the minister may speak. For the time remaining we will follow the same rotation to the extent possible; however, the speaking times are reduced to five minutes.

Members may speak more than once; however, speaking times are limited to 10 minutes at any one time. A minister and a member may combine their time for a total of 20 minutes. For the final rotation, with speaking times of five minutes, once again a minister and member may combine their speaking time for a maximum total of 10 minutes. Members are asked to advise the chair at the beginning of their speech if they wish to combine their time with the minister's time.

Three hours have been scheduled to consider the estimates of the Ministry of Culture. With the concurrence of the committee I will call a five-minute break near the midpoint of the meeting.

Committee members, ministers, and other members who are not committee members may participate. Ministry officials may be present, and at the direction of the minister officials from the ministry may address the committee. Members' staff may be present and, space permitting, may sit at the table or behind their members along the committee room wall. Members have priority for seating at the table at all times.

If debate is exhausted prior to three hours, the ministry's estimates are deemed to have been considered for the time allotted in the schedule and we will adjourn. Otherwise, we will adjourn at 10 p.m.

Points of order will be dealt with as they arise, and the clock will continue to run.

Any written material provided in response to questions raised during the main estimates should be tabled in the Assembly for the benefit of all members.

Vote on the estimates is deferred until consideration of all ministry estimates has concluded and will occur in the Committee of Supply on April 16, 2014.

I would now like to invite the Minister of Culture to begin her opening remarks.

Someone else has joined us. If you could read your name into the record.

Sorry, Minister.

Mr. Jeneroux: Sorry, Minister.

Thanks, everybody, for being here tonight. Matt Jeneroux, MLA, Edmonton-South West.

The Chair: Thank you.

Whenever you're ready.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you very much, Cathy, and good evening on this wonderful spring Alberta day. Again, my key staff I introduced earlier, and I just want to say that I'm very proud of the work they do to support me as well as all the staff through my department. The dedication and passion they bring to their work every day is equalled only by those whom they serve: the committed leaders and volunteers on the front lines of community service in the nonprofit, voluntary sector; the technicians, artists, performers, and those in our cultural industries who have captured the attention and admiration of their industry peers and audiences at home and around the world; and the forward-thinking Albertans who have seen the value of promoting and preserving our past for today and tomorrow. It is through their efforts that Albertans – our youth, our families, our honoured seniors – are able to enjoy a quality of life second to none in Canada.

The investment that we as a government make on behalf of Albertans needs to result in a good return. Any investment into culture results in social, cultural, and economic benefits that lead to stronger families and communities locally, a sense of pride by our citizens, and an enhanced reputation abroad. The result is an Alberta that realizes the dreams of the past, an Alberta that inspires dreams today and that feels confidence in the fulfillment of the dreams of the future. Budget 2014 is the reflection of the value that our government has placed on the dreams and aspirations of our citizens and the confidence we have in transforming those into reality.

Alberta Culture's total 2014 budget is \$233 million, including \$184 million for programs and services. Overall, Budget 2014 represents an increase of \$14 million, that will help address the cultural priorities of Albertans. Our operational funding of \$184 million will help to ensure that effective, quality front-line services and support continue to be accessible by all Albertans. This funding will help us deliver community and voluntary support programs and services valued at more than \$9.5 billion annually and that employ more than 175,000 Albertans.

Our nonprofit sector is enhancing the quality of life for all and represents a significant market for local businesses ranging from suppliers to professional service providers. Our commitment to supporting our communities and voluntary sector remains unchanged, and we have maintained funding levels to our community investment grant programs along with allowing us to meet spending targets. A planned reduction of \$600,000 to the other initiatives program allowed us to increase funding to the very successful community initiatives program by \$1 million, bringing the total to \$25.75 million.

The community facility enhancement program has been maintained at \$38 million and will continue to support communities and meet infrastructure needs. Our community grant programs will be able to continue to deliver results for Albertans as Alberta's economy expands and our communities grow. We will continue to help our nonprofits and municipalities keep pace. Programs delivered by our community development unit will help them build organizational and operational capacity, address local issues, and turn innovative ideas into practical solutions.

The impacts of flooding in 2013 were significant and touched almost every sector of Alberta's cultural community. Alberta

Culture worked with other departments in the immediate disaster response, and we continue to work closely with our partners in the culture sector in the longer term disaster recovery efforts. We are providing more than \$20.9 million in new funding for heritage, arts, and nonprofit organizations affected by the floods. Additional dollars are also being provided through Municipal Affairs. Some of this funding was made available in 2013-14, and the rest will be provided through Budget 2014 in subsequent years. By providing extraordinary support for culture organizations impacted by the floods, this government is helping to ensure that the sector is sustained and that we can continue to build Alberta.

A strong cultural sector is vital to the collective success of our province, and our faith in the talent, creativity, and business savvy of Albertans is unwavering. That's why we created the social innovation endowment, a \$500 million investment in 2014-15 with a further \$500 million in 2015-16. Investment income from the endowment is estimated to be \$22.5 million in the first year, and this money will help fuel social innovation activities across Alberta. Part of the endowment spending will be targeted to the cultural sector and will help support new ideas and visionary strategies that can enable Alberta to better respond to the challenges facing communities in a rapidly changing province.

7:10

The excitement and vibrancy of Alberta culture is a source of pride for Albertans and a magnet to a skilled workforce and economic investment. To that end, we have put in place the Premier's Council on Culture, comprised of 23 community leaders who reflect the broad scope of culture and will help to lead the development of a long-term, province-wide culture plan that will champion Alberta's cultural policy, the Spirit of Alberta, and identify innovative approaches, partnerships, and funding models for the promotion and support of culture in this province.

We will continue to work with all of our partners to develop and showcase our cultural resources for the benefit of Alberta's families, communities, visitors, and investors. Alberta's performing and visual artists and technicians are attracting attention in galleries, theatres, and boardrooms around the world. Increasing funding for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts by \$1.1 million to over \$29 million will assist in the development of Alberta talent and lead to further expansion of the industry.

Over the last five years Alberta's film, television, and digital media industry generated more than \$400 million in economic activity. This sector employs more than 3,000 very talented Albertans. In 2012-13 alone 53 film, television, and digital media productions took place in Alberta, including CBC's *Heartland* and international productions like AMC's *Hell on Wheels*. The \$79.5 million spent in Alberta as a result of those productions, which includes over \$21 million in provincial investment through the Alberta media fund, resulted in close to \$129 million in direct and indirect economic activity in Alberta's communities.

By increasing our support to the Alberta media fund by \$5 million in 2014-15, the fund will continue to keep our talented film crews busy and support this kind of economic diversification by telling our stories, by showcasing our magnificent landscapes, and representing Alberta to potential visitors from around the world.

Opportunities for cultural tourism abound in our province. World-renowned festivals like the Fringe, the Calgary Stampede, and, of course, Alberta Culture Days are an easy sell for tourist operators, and our provincial historic sites and local heritage resources are attractive destinations for those seeking a uniquely Canadian, uniquely Alberta experience.

Funding of \$59 million, which includes a cash increase of \$1.6 million for preservation and conservation of Alberta heritage, will ensure that all Albertans have access to our museums, archives, and historic resources. Through increased funding of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation the Glenbow Museum will receive an additional \$600,000 in ongoing support so it can continue caring for and providing public access to government-owned collections.

As the new Royal Alberta Museum gets closer to its expected 2017 opening, an additional \$600,000 has been allocated to hire new staff to ensure a successful transition to the amazing new facility, one that will be a source of pride for all Albertans. The new Royal Alberta Museum will allow us to secure some of the world's most sought-after exhibits and present them to Albertans and visitors to our province in a facility that is in itself a work of art.

The diversity of our culture sector is reflected by the diversity of our population. Alberta is welcoming newcomers from across the nation and around the globe, and we continue to build upon the strength of our relationship with our growing francophone community. Budget 2014 provides for \$1.3 million in ongoing support to the Francophone Secretariat, and this funding is in addition to the support available to the francophone community through various other ministry programs and services that will help francophone Albertans sustain and grow their culture.

Just as all Albertans work to sustain and grow, to express and share the culture of our great province, as a government we are proud to support these efforts because we know, as Albertans have made very clear, that culture matters. Culture matters to Albertans, matters to the future development of Alberta as our province grows in size and stature as an economic driver on the global stage. In 2012 alone arts- and culture-related industries were responsible for almost 3 per cent of Alberta's gross domestic product, amounting to \$8.2 billion. Culture matters because it is the reflection of who we are and all that we aspire to be, and it matters how the world views our province and its people and how we see ourselves.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I think I just made the time.

The Chair: It was perfect.

At this time we'll move on to the Wildrose portion, which is 60 minutes. Who will be taking these questions, and how will you be proceeding?

Mr. Pedersen: Carefully. Back and forth if that's all right, Minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: That's fine, Blake, yeah.

The Chair: Very good. When you're ready.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you very much, Chair.

First, I would like to welcome my fellow members, Minister Klimchuk and staff, plus any of the guests following the estimates debate in person or online. We do appreciate the interest you show in the important work that everyone in government undertakes on your behalf. I would like to thank all those within the Culture ministry for accomplishing the work that they are tasked with.

Minister Klimchuk, I would like to start off by expressing my sincere gratitude on behalf of those affected by the flood of 2013 who received support from your ministry, whether it was financial, advice, or personal support from you or your staff.

I would also like to send a shout-out to all the volunteers in Alberta who were recognized last week during volunteer appreciation week for the great work and services you all provide.

This year we have been accorded an extra hour for Culture estimates, so I do look forward to the answers to the questions I will be posing as well as hearing the answers to the questions that other members will present and that they will task you with.

With that, shall we proceed, Minister?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Go ahead.

Mr. Pedersen: I'll try and keep this as organized as possible. We'll start with the business plan, please, page 17, when you're ready.

Mrs. Klimchuk: There it is, right here. I've got it right here.

Mr. Pedersen: Great. Thank you. Please explain what cost savings and systemic efficiencies have been realized as a result of the results-based budgeting process and in what areas it is expected there will be future savings and efficiencies.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Great question. The results-based budgeting process was a great process. We worked together with a number of other ministries, including Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Part of the challenge is looking at everything we do in our departments and looking for the outcomes we're trying to achieve. I think that the process is about challenging every dollar that we have and doing the right things with the dollar. Again, it's looking across for outcomes and looking for benchmarks and items that need to be addressed. They looked at the Alberta media fund through the results base, and they looked at a number of areas, recreation and culture, as well. I guess, for me, it's looking at the effectiveness and efficiency of all the programs that we run here in the department.

One of the things that they asked us to look at, which I thought was kind of interesting – I didn't really expect it – is developing a volunteer strategy. Believe it or not, volunteers are in every department. That was one of the things that, you know, came through in terms of: how do we work with volunteers, how do we inspire the next generation of volunteers, and how do we keep them going? That's one of the ideas that came out through results-based budgeting as well as conversations about the film classification system. Real issues were brought forward, which I very much appreciated.

Mr. Pedersen: Perfect. Thank you.

What are the expectations that have been outlined from the Premier and from Executive Council as a whole for your department?

Mrs. Klimchuk: As a whole, when I look at my department, I look at the business plan and all the great things that I get to do, you know, in Culture. I think it's probably giving access to people to experience culture activities. A second thing that I'm working on, too, that I've been asked to do, is to develop a culture plan, and that's what the Premier's Council on Culture is working on.

It's all those things that perhaps we all take for granted: that we all live here in Alberta, what we have here, making sure that the volunteer and the nonprofit sector is supported, that heritage is supported as well as the multicultural, and, of course, working on the new Royal Alberta Museum. I think that there are tremendous opportunities with that museum coming forward to more or less showcase Alberta.

I would also like to talk about the arts sector, which is

incredibly vibrant here in Alberta. That's another area that I've been tasked with. When I look at just a couple of examples, I mean, in Alberta we have two opera companies. We have four symphony orchestras. We have hundreds of theatres. We know that across the U.S. and across Canada there are a lot of buildings that are closing down. So I'm very proud of that and encouraging our students to go into postsecondary education, to go into those fields so they can be a technician or an actor or a writer.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

Touching on that, I have heard that the current Premier's Council on Culture is a much-improved group over the previous council. Can you share with us what the council has identified as their top three objectives, and what is their plan to achieve these objectives?

7:20

Mrs. Klimchuk: The first objective that I wanted them to work on was developing a culture plan and moving that forward. That will be coming out soon.

The second part is relating business and the economy. Something that I've tried to do is to encourage partnerships, to encourage business to work with the arts or business to work with different creative individuals. That's something that I've worked on. That includes private-sector investments as well. So that's probably those two areas.

Another thing that we've kind of talked about is, I guess, giving nonprofits and voluntary groups some tools for success in terms of – we all know the onerousness of rightly audited financial statements and all those kinds of things – trying to look at some of those areas, trying to help them with some real issues, not just the stuff up here. I'm talking about the stuff down here.

I guess related to that, too, is looking at some kind of an endowment for culture. The social innovation fund is something I'm very proud of because of the role that Culture will play in that with Premier Hancock and with Minister Bhullar. I think it's an opportunity to leverage that.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

Can you advise what the yearly cost is for this current council, and is this allocated someplace in the budget?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The cost is in my budget. As is normal with any committee, they get paid for expenses, but they're all volunteers. When we have our meetings, we take turns having the meetings either here or in Calgary. As well, we do a lot of the technology, using technology. It's \$200,000, and it's in element 1.5, so that's probably why you didn't see it right up front there. It's in corporate services. That's where it would be.

Thank you.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Great. Thanks.

Could you provide us with a list of the membership and associated costs of any other advisory councils, whether formal or informal, that exist to give you advice, or do you have any other ones?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Those lists are all public. The Premier's Council on Culture, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts: those are all public. That's all available.

Mr. Pedersen: Is it costing the public as well, then?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The cost of those groups?

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts would be similar to the Premier's Council on Culture in terms of – and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, I suspect, may be a similar cost, but I can get that for you if you need that.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Just curiosity. That would be great.

Mrs. Klimchuk: There are two others, the Alberta Film Advisory Council, of which Matt Jeneroux is the co-chair . . .

Mr. Pedersen: That sounds expensive.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah, yeah.

. . . and then ANVSI, which is the Alberta nonprofit, voluntary sector initiative, all of the nonprofit groups coming together and having a voice. So those are the folks that I kind of reach out to, but for me the privilege of being able to go and talk to everybody and anybody in Alberta is kind of the input that I take as well.

Mr. Pedersen: Just touching on the idea of the advisory councils or boards or committees, have you ever put any thought into having an opposition day, where you actually invite opposition members? A lot of times we feel like we're on the outside looking in, and I know there's a lot of great work and conversation and discussions going on. I'm sure we would love to be able to attend some of those meetings or see just the simple fact that those individuals know that we may be termed "opposition members," but sometimes there's a lot of support from, you know, the other side of the House. I just wanted to throw that out there.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, I know that on all of those boards and committees or councils the Albertans that are appointed are from all over Alberta, and they certainly bring, every one, a certain level of expertise. I know that during Alberta Culture Days, certainly, many of them are attending events all over. I'll take that under advisement.

Thank you.

Mr. Pedersen: I appreciate that.

Under the business plan, strategic context, pages 17, it says, "Albertans spend the most . . . per capita . . . on cultural goods, services and activities." Is this information from the annual report, or can you provide the information in writing?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Where did you read that, Blake? Sorry. On page 17?

Mr. Pedersen: Under strategic context.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Oh, okay. I see it. I guess some of that would be, certainly, some of the stats that we track with our performance measures as well as some of the initiatives that are taken through, for example, the AFA, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. They developed something called a ripple report, which explains that.

The stat you're talking about is actually from Stats Canada, which said that of all Canadians, Albertans spend the most money per person on cultural goods, services, and activities. So I guess you could say that some of it is Stats Canada, some of it is our own stats, some of it is our own performance measures. That's why those number are very important, because we know what Albertans like to spend their dollars on. Again, 91 per cent of Albertans attended or participated in an arts event or activity in 2013, which is fantastic to me. I think over 90 per cent is great.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. It is mentioned that there are opportunities existing to use resources more strategically, further enhancing collaboration across government and its partners to build greater awareness and appreciation of the social and economic benefits of culture. Can you please be more specific than the generality stated and give examples of what is currently being undertaken as well as what the ministry is currently looking at?

Mrs. Klimchuk: There are a couple of things that we're looking at. One of things that we're doing is with the Alberta nonprofit, voluntary sector initiative. We've come together, and there are a number of people that are going to be involved, Jann Beeston with Volunteer Alberta, a number of different individuals, setting up part of a leaders' council to make sure that their voices are heard at the table. That's one group.

The other group is in the whole area of cultural tourism, all those things that we kind of partner with other ministries on, which is very important to me, whether it's IIR or whether it's TPR. The more often you can collaborate with a group, whether it's an ancillary group or a nonprofit group, voluntary group, we know that we're going to be able to accomplish greater things together. So I guess that would be the example, and for me they're the groups that I listen to all the time.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. As part of the 2013 Alberta flooding lines can you please provide some information on the dollar amount of damage that occurred? If you wouldn't mind following up in writing, maybe breaking it down by region, maybe historical sites that were affected, infrastructure, and other contents.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Sure. We can get you details on that. I know that the funding that was announced under flood recovery was for the artists, museums, archives, and some of the historic buildings. We know that there is incredible damage in southern Alberta as well as up in Fort McMurray. Some of the funds that are going towards those are being run through the Alberta Museums Association as well as through CIP and through CFEP through my department. We know that there are some buildings, of course, that were damaged beyond belief, and we know we can't help there, but we'd be happy to get those details for you further, Blake.

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. I appreciate that.

Also, just to follow up with that, if you want to make a notation of what was covered by insurance, the amount that has been or will be covered by the department, and what might be covered by DRP.

Mrs. Klimchuk: All of these funds were only once they had exhausted insurance and the DRP. That's when Culture stepped in.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay.

Mrs. Klimchuk: It was very clear in terms of the process that they had to go through to access all those points.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

Assistance for First Nations is also mentioned. Can you provide detailed information on what is being provided, what is still to be provided, and what measurables you have in place for that?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The First Nations in terms of flood damage?

Mr. Pedersen: Yes.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. I can do that for you, most certainly. I know that there is still a lot at Siksika. There's a lot of work going

on with Municipal Affairs. Some of those questions might be better directed towards Municipal Affairs, but we're happy to check from our end to make sure that the cultural artifacts – one of the things which was sad was the loss of a lot of their materials they use to celebrate their culture, eagle feathers, medicine bags. A lot of those were lost in the flood, so part of the challenge is to make sure that they can get some of those pieces back. I found that out just talking to some of the folks who had more or less – a lot of those items were gone.

Mr. Pedersen: Great. Thank you.

Under evolving communities and the nonprofit, voluntary sector, page 18, this section mentions that demographic age changes will “present opportunities and challenges.” Please provide a more detailed explanation of how the ministry will tackle the opportunities and challenges for the francophone and the aboriginal segments.

7:30

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, I'll start with the francophones. We know that in Alberta we have the fastest growing francophone population outside of Quebec, which is great and kind of unusual. We have a lot of immigrants coming to Alberta from European countries and from African countries, so part of the challenge is to work with the francophone community and the immigrant services that are available. That's something – you know, I've talked with Jean Johnson, and I'm working with the Francophone Secretariat on that. It's very important because when those families come here, if they don't get the supports they need in terms of schooling or jobs, then we know that they're going to get off on the wrong foot. So that's one part of that. And at the Francophone Secretariat we have Cindy Leblanc, who is now the executive director, and we did hire another person for Calgary just to deal with some of these issues.

What was your second area, Blake?

Mr. Pedersen: The aboriginal.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Oh, aboriginal. Okay. One of the things that we're doing in the aboriginal community, certainly, is that we're looking at the aboriginal content for the new history gallery at the Royal Alberta Museum and working with them and First Nations and Métis as well. Of course, we had a Cree elder from Treaty 6 provide the blessing when we started the museum.

We also do something else. We have a 15-week summer internship program in museum practices for postsecondary aboriginal students. That's something that we do every summer, and that's put through by the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum. So that's something that we work on.

We also host four pipe ceremonies during the year to bless the sacred objects in the gallery of aboriginal culture. We're always making sure that we work with the aboriginal community. You know, your comment about the growing aboriginal community here in Alberta: that's something that we're watching very carefully, and we're engaging some of the great talent, for sure.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Along the same lines, because you have it broken out between three groups – you have youth, seniors, and those aged between 15 and 64 – how do you approach those individual groups?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I'll deal with youth first. I think that in the youth area there are tremendous mentorship programs. I look at some of the experiences that youth can have when they work with the SIP, the student internship program, that runs through Advanced

Education. That's one area. I guess part of it is giving youth the opportunities to experience things they haven't.

When I look at the other age group, the 15 to 64, I know that it kind of relates to the volunteer strategy that we need to have a discussion on because what I've noticed with volunteerism is that over 70 per cent of all Albertans volunteer, which is one of the highest in Canada. But volunteers are different now. They go in and out. They'll come for a bit, then they disappear, and then they come back. Since we are an aging population, the challenge is to make sure that we keep engaging those volunteers and keep re-engaging those volunteers. That's something where, whether it's Alberta Culture Days – we have an event called Vitalize, which takes place at the beginning of June, for all of the volunteers and nonprofits to come together. It's in Calgary this year. That's a great event because people can come together and kind of share stories and network and just find out what each other's groups are doing.

Mr. Pedersen: Great. Thank you.

If you don't mind, I'd like to talk about the nonprofit sector for a little bit. I'm sure almost everyone here would agree that this sector continues to be the backbone for program and service delivery in communities. Is there some place where a person can look up a complete list of all nonprofits in Alberta? If so, does it provide breakdowns by service or program as well as by location? Does this list allow you to link directly to that group's website or e-mail to obtain more details?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, it's interesting that you ask that question. When I was Minister of Service Alberta, we registered all the nonprofits through the Societies Act. There are right now probably over 25,000 nonprofits here. I would suspect that some of that information would be available on the Service Alberta website, but we can follow up with you. I don't want to make a guess. That is where they are registered, through Service Alberta. We support them as much as we can, but not every nonprofit, when they approach us for funding, gets funding. With respect to contacting all of them, that's something that we'll have to get back to you on. Again, that might be a better question for Service Alberta, but we'll check into it.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

Is there some way to obtain the amount of government funding or grants that each of these groups would receive in a year?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. For example, the CIP and CFEP grants: if you go to the Alberta Culture website, it's by the name of the organization and by the community as well. That's how you can access those. It wouldn't show – you know, it would depend on what you were looking for exactly.

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. Okay.

One of the biggest complaints I hear from nonprofit groups is that even after they have successfully provided a community with a service, sometimes a service that used to be provided directly by government, and they can show that it does benefit the community and those they serve, government either steps away one hundred per cent and then tells that group to continue on their own, or government continues to go through the granting process rather than simplifying the process by changing short-term grants into planned program funding. What this does is create uncertainty within a nonprofit organization as to if and what programs they can deliver long term. I know you touched on that earlier, and I just would like to hear more comments on that.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. I guess, too, that when nonprofits apply for a CIP or a CFEP grant, those grants are one-time opportunities. They're not, you know, a sustainable, three-year kind of model. I know that when we had the forum on culture a couple of years ago, one of the things that came through loud and clear was the issue of sustainability. Looking at a three-year model or a different kind of a model is something I believe in. That's something I would like to work on. You and I know that some years it's yes, some years it's no, and then they keep doing their good work and making government look really, really good. But it's a challenge for me, for sure, Blake, and it concerns me. I'd much prefer to look at a model where someone could get – if they knew what they were getting, then you can find your champions, you can plan your funding over a couple of years, but that's something we're still working on. At the end of the day, that's something that ANVSI will be addressing, that whole area, exactly that point that you're making, the viability and sustainability of many groups.

Now, I think I spoke in previous years about collaboration and when groups come together. One of the things that was brought up was that if groups come together, then they're going to be penalized in their funding. Well, when Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Boys and Girls Clubs came together, they did some really cool things. They have not been penalized. What they've done is that they've been able to lean the administration, share resources, all those kinds of things. So it's making sure that groups can still do what they need to do.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. That kind of ties in directly to, you know, what I fear, that if government doesn't find a way to change the way it looks upon nonprofits as the true community program and service delivery partners that they are, these groups will cease to exist. The struggle between continuing to try to fund their operations through unstable government grants plus the uncertainty of fundraising in the community while trying to manage and run an organization puts an incredible strain on the executive directors and the staff. If these groups do cease successful operations, the government will then have a group of citizens without those specific services and programs. At that point in time who is responsible for this new social cost?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, I guess many of those programs are volunteers, of course. Many of them run a pretty lean machine. You have the executive director, who is paid. Maybe an administrator is paid, a person who answers the phone. That's about it.

What we've tried to do with many of those groups is to encourage them to look at different models of funding, look for a partner, look for the social enterprise model of funding. We know that in Alberta there are some tremendous nonprofits. For example, the Down Syndrome Society for years has collected bottles, and they sell garbage bags. We know that there are great opportunities out there. That's something that I've been working on, that whole area of social enterprise and giving nonprofits greater tools to encourage their sustainability.

Going back to nonprofits coming together, as I said to you, there are 25,000, probably even more, and the viability of some of them – there will be times when some of them will need to move on and some of them will have to reinvent themselves.

To me, it's about looking for partners. I know that's hard. It's easy for me to say that and for you to say that, but it's hard to find those partners. We know that there are some outstanding groups out there doing great things. I firmly believe that in the area of social enterprise we could do some really great work.

7:40

Mr. Pedersen: Kind of following up on that, are you talking about working with groups to identify potential partnerships within nonprofits? You gave some examples, but is that an actual goal that your department is looking at, to try and, you know, make the number of nonprofit organizations in Alberta I wouldn't say more manageable but as effective as you can?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I think that at the end of the day, every group or organization who has a passion or a dream has every right to form their nonprofit or their charitable organization. That's not going to stop. But what we have to do is to make sure that the groups who are forming know what they're going into in terms of what's available for service and whether it's operating or whether it's a program. I guess it's expectations of what they feel they should be getting from government or from their partners or from, you know, the private sector. I guess it's a whole number of things. For me, when I tour around Alberta, all the communities that I go to, and I see some of the examples out there, when the community wants something to succeed, the community will make it succeed. That's the power of volunteers and the power that Albertans have.

Mr. Pedersen: Great. Thank you.

On the subject of volunteers – it's like you've seen my notes here; this is really weird – is there any idea on the number of actual volunteer individuals in Alberta?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. We had there some stats that are very cool. Over 70 per cent of Albertans volunteer. There's a stat where . . .

Mr. Pedersen: Sorry. Albertans: we're talking about a population of over 4 million.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah.

Mr. Pedersen: You're basing that on – I'm kind of looking at more of a quantifiable number than a percentage.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, the number that I have is about 228 million hours, which is about 120,000 jobs, which is about 180,000 volunteers. There you go. I don't know why I remember it, but those numbers are valid. When you look at the jobs, the positions that volunteers do equate to 120,000 full-time jobs.

Mr. Pedersen: You said 180,000 individuals volunteer in Alberta.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah.

Mr. Pedersen: So when you said that 70 per cent of Albertans volunteer, that's not a real accurate representation of the population.

Mrs. Klimchuk: That's not accurate. No.

Mr. Pedersen: That's why I wanted to get more of a specific number. Thanks.

Is there any information collected on the average amount of time each volunteer contributes per year?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I'm pretty sure that groups like Volunteer Alberta – there are a number of groups across Alberta, about eight or nine, that all work together, and they funnel everything towards Volunteer Alberta. I suspect that they would have those hours. We don't track those. We track the organizations. Sometimes you can track volunteer hours in terms of when people apply and put

volunteer hours for particular projects. Again, going back to the discussion on the volunteer strategy, that's a really good question. But I would think that the groups that are out there that are hands-on with the volunteers do those.

I know that certain groups – for example, in Alberta last year the retired group of volunteers at Telus put in 150,000 hours of volunteering.

Mr. Pedersen: That's fantastic.

Mrs. Klimchuk: So we know that there are these stories. I don't have that number.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thanks.

Talking about volunteers – and I see that all the time in Medicine Hat – is there any information on the average number of different groups a volunteer may be associated with? It always seems that you see the same faces at multiple . . .

Mrs. Klimchuk: The same 10 people or maybe the same 20 people?

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah.

Mrs. Klimchuk: You know, I don't have that information either, but I think that's a really good point, Blake, because a lot of people, especially in smaller communities, will volunteer for the same groups. You'll see them at the Rotary. You'll see them at the fundraising for the playground or the school or those kinds of things. That's certainly something that, you know, is not calculated. You look at the hours that coaches or people that help out at churches or things like that put in. A lot of those hours are really hard to quantify.

But I think you're right. We want more people to get involved, and that's why the encouraging of younger people or people who have never volunteered at all – we know that in some of the bigger groups, whether it's Telus or EPCOR, when they have their volunteers volunteer for a day, typically many of those employees will stick with that volunteer group after.

Mr. Pedersen: Again, following up on what you just answered, has there ever been any discussion with the Education minister and his ministry about introducing curriculum around volunteering in nonprofits? I'm just wondering if you think that if this was introduced at a younger age to identify the value and the motivation of why these two components of society are so critical in the humanity of social actions, they might become regular actions in more people's lives.

Mrs. Klimchuk: As a long-time volunteer myself I know that in kindergarten to grade 6 the children learn a huge amount about volunteering through different groups that they're a part of. Through the international baccalaureate program for grades 7 to 12 every year the numbers go up for volunteering. So I've kind of looked at that, and I've thought: you know, it's happening there. It's inconsistent, I guess you would say. Some schools and some parts of Alberta do it more than others. I think that's a discussion that's a worthwhile discussion to have.

You know, people, especially children and youth, volunteer for very specific causes. You want to make sure they want to keep doing it. You don't want them to get tired of it. But I think we kind of teach that; it's here and there in our curriculum. Especially when the kids are not in the IB program, there are Rotary clubs now in most of the high schools, which I think is great. I think there's an opportunity to have that conversation and to engage more youth, especially the youth.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thanks.

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but I'm of the understanding that the number of volunteers may be actually falling or is kind of straining and that much of the volunteer work is being done by seniors. Maybe I'm just seeing that from, you know, the Medicine Hat perspective. Are there any statistics around what age group provides what amount of volunteer work and hours?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. I can get that back to you, on the age group. You're right. There are some parts of Alberta where the seniors are huge volunteers, and there are other parts where they're not. We're happy to look for that for you, Blake, and see what we can find.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Great.

Specifically, what are your actions to get other age groups involved to increase the amount of participation rate?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I think the volunteer strategy, one, will be a great way to keep that conversation going. Any time that youth can be mentored by someone who works in a nonprofit or a volunteer group, that's when the magic happens. I think there are plenty of opportunities available for youth to get involved, especially in the creative sector, whether in the arts or culture, things in that area. I think that's where that conversation needs to happen, during the development of the volunteer strategy. We know, as I said before, that once they get engaged in something, they want to come back and keep doing it. That's what I would like to happen.

Mr. Pedersen: Super. So I'm volunteering to leave that subject for the moment and move to page 38 of the estimates whenever you're ready.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. I've got it right here.

Mr. Pedersen: In relation to line 3.3 and line 3.5 please provide in writing the total amount of CFEP and CIP grants broken down by each individual provincial constituency.

As well, if you could please explain why it is only the PC MLAs and sometimes recently independent former PC MLAs that hand out the cheques and not the MLA for the constituency where these community organizations are at?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, as I said before, the grants that go for CIP and CFEP are available by organization or by community on the website. That information is there.

With respect to the cheques being delivered and those kinds of things, as Minister of Culture I can't deliver them all myself. Oftentimes government colleagues will be there on my behalf, and being that it's a government program, that's how those cheques are delivered. Most certainly, the input that I get from all of you, from all of my colleagues, opposition and government, as to a particular grant or a particular group: that's what we take into account.

7:50

Mr. Pedersen: Just for clarification, we would just like to get that in writing based upon constituencies. I'm not sure if you have the ability to create a report that would do that . . .

Mrs. Klimchuk: Again, they're available online.

Mr. Pedersen: Rather than going online and trying to figure it out.

Mrs. Klimchuk: They're available by community and by organization. That's how they're made available.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. So while the resources are clearly tight, we see slight increases to the Alberta media fund in line 2.4 and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in 2.5 while under capital CFEP, 3.6, is frozen, and the community spirit grant program remains unfunded. Is this an indication of the priority of the department, and are there plans to reinstate the community spirit grant program?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, I appreciate the question, Blake. I know that it was taken away last year. As you know, the program was around for five years. Certainly, the program did what it needed to do in terms of: it increased by 4.3 per cent Albertans giving to nonprofits and to charitable organizations. So it did do what it needed to do. I guess we're at the point where we're encouraging individuals to give to different nonprofits, and they did.

I would have to say that the dialogue with the nonprofit sector is going on, and again, going back to ANVSI, I'm looking forward to hearing what their thoughts are on that. We know that we still have one of the highest charitable tax credits in Canada. That's something that we still have. Of course, the federal government has a new credit as well for first-time donors, something that came through this year. I think that charitable giving is growing, but I would certainly be open to input from the sector to see what's necessary and to see if that was indeed the right program.

Mr. Pedersen: Just to skip over to page 43, can you please explain the \$63.735 million in the nonvoted items by program and what they are? I think I asked this last year, but I just wanted clarification.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Where are we?

Mr. Pedersen: The nonvoted items on page 43, under Amounts Not Voted, on the top right.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. So you're looking at the number \$63,735,000?

Mr. Pedersen: Yes, the \$63 million.

Mrs. Klimchuk: The reason why it's not required to be voted – and I'm going to just give the brief technical comment here: they're “not included in any supply vote either because no cash disbursement is required, or because the Legislative Assembly has already provided the funding authority pursuant to a statute other than an appropriation act.” If that helps.

Mr. Pedersen: No. I read that, too, and I thought: yeah. But I'm just more curious. I understand that it's not to be voted on. I'm just more interested in where those funds are applied and how they're spent, I guess. They're allocated to the budget?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Right.

Mr. Pedersen: I'm just wondering: where does \$36 million go to creative industries? Where does \$26 million go to heritage? I just want clarification on that.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Sure. We can do that for you.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

This one here is something that's been coming up a little more often locally and from some of my colleagues. There seems to be a problem in the department around timeliness in the granting process. It seems like it's on a downward spiral, and responses, whether approvals or denials, are taking months, sometimes over

half a year, with department promises for follow-up missed over and over. This is putting some projects into precarious situations in many cases. Some community groups have been around for years, so obviously something has gone seriously off the rails. Can the minister please address this issue and explain why it is occurring and what is being done to correct it?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. Thank you, Blake. I know that the system has four quarters when groups can apply. You know, the next date is June 15. The previous date was March 15. I guess you could say that probably thousands of applications come in each quarter, so it means going through those applications with the great team that I have, ensuring that they're in order, ensuring that all the numbers are correct and all the things that we have to do to validate those numbers. I know that there are sometimes delays, too, if the organization is not providing what we need to have. Sometimes the communication between the organization and the people in the department could stall some things if we're waiting for information and we're not getting it, those kinds of things.

Ironically, the GATE system, the IT system, means that you can apply online, which makes it much more efficient, but that's something that concerns me greatly in terms of getting back to the community. We all know that at this time of year people want to get shovels in the ground. They want to know what's happening. I am aware of some of the delays we're experiencing, and that's something that I will be working on.

I guess it's that there are lots of applications and limited dollars. Not everything gets funded. Not everything can be funded. So part of it is going through and vetting and making sure that the project is what the community wants. As I said before, when a community puts all the ducks in a row, especially when there are partners coming together, you know it's going to happen.

Mr. Pedersen: I think, you know, the concern that I'm hearing is that it's groups that are following all the processes properly. The paperwork is done right. There are commitments from your ministry that they will look into it. There are follow-up phone calls by the group to say: "How is that coming? You know, you said that you'd look into that." There are timelines being missed on the ministry side. That's what I'm hearing. So it would just be great to maybe have a little discussion and see if there is an issue there because that's what I'm hearing is a problem, and this is from groups that have been doing this year after year.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Groups in your area?

Mr. Pedersen: In my area and all over.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay.

Mr. Pedersen: It's people that are familiar with the process, people that are familiar with the ministry, and vice versa. It kind of almost just seems to be, I would say, like customer service is dropping off.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, if there are any particular examples that you want to provide to me, I'd be happy to look at them, Blake. I mean, if there are some, you know, show them to me. Certainly, everyone is trying to do their best. Yeah, provide me with some examples. I'd be happy to look at those.

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. That's awesome. Thanks.

On page 42 of the fiscal plan \$25 million has been allocated to the Alberta media fund. Can you please tell us how many projects were supported last year, and do you anticipate a similar uptake

this year? What were the top five funded projects last year, and will any of those projects be funded in '14-15? I know you touched a little bit on it in your introduction.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I guess that under the Alberta media fund a number of productions were funded last year. We know that Alberta is a great place to film. For example, I can just give you a few stats. As I said in my comments, in 2012-13 there were 53 film/television productions that received grants, including *Heartland* and *Hell on Wheels*. Those are just some examples.

Mr. Pedersen: Sorry. Do you know the top five funded ones?

Mrs. Klimchuk: *Heartland* and *Hell on Wheels* would be two of the top five, for sure – those are the big ones– and probably *Blackstone*. Those are the ones that were funded last year. Then there are the 53 productions that were filmed that did receive grants. So in addition to those big ones, 53 is the total amount that received grants, film and television. That's how many. I do not have that list in front of me.

8:00

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. No worries.

Mrs. Klimchuk: If that helps.

Mr. Pedersen: Would you be able to provide that list? Is that something that you could supply to us?

Mrs. Klimchuk: It's on the website as well. All of this is on the website.

Mr. Pedersen: And I appreciate that. Sometimes when you say it's on the website, it's not always the easiest to find and organize, so when we have the opportunity to make those requests here – I know that you have the technology, the sorting for delivery of that.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. We can look into that. For sure.

Mr. Pedersen: That would be awesome. Thanks.

Just following up on that, are any of those looking to be funded in '14-15?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. *Hell on Wheels* is filming season 4 – they are building a brand new set outside of Okotoks, a brand new set which they are going to leave – *Blackstone* as well. *Heartland* has been renewed. They're on season 8. So, yeah, most certainly, there are a number of those groups. [interjection] And *Freezer*, right. Thanks, Laurie.

What's really interesting about these series is that when we get series work, it means there's steady work for all the crews. All the crews finished on *Fargo*, then they went to *Hell on Wheels* or now they're on *Blackstone*. There are some real issues now. We're running out of crews. Essentially, we had five. Now we're up to about three and a half, four. But a series means there's regular work for everyone. You know, when you go into a small town, they employ everyone from around to be an extra. [interjection] Yeah. The wranglers. That's right. So that's good news for Alberta. It's very good news for the economy.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Just touching again on the media fund. Were there any one hundred per cent Alberta content projects? I'm talking, you know, writer, producer.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. *Blackstone* is a perfect example, totally a hundred per cent.

Mr. Pedersen: Anybody else?

Ms Blakeman: Documentaries.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Documentaries, yeah. There would be lots of documentaries, lots of independent films. There's this group called FAVA. They had their big event a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah. I missed it.

Mrs. Klimchuk: They're having a one-minute film show coming up. These are independent filmmakers. I was so impressed with what they're making, some of the films they're making here. We know there's lots of good work going on and not all necessarily being funded through the Alberta media fund. There's lots of great independent work going on there as well.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Great. Thank you.

On page 145 of the fiscal plan – sorry to jump you around here.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Is it 145?

Mr. Pedersen: It's page 145 of the fiscal plan.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. I've got it right here. Thanks.

Mr. Pedersen: It indicates that a total of \$128 million for Culture comes directly from the lottery revenues: \$38 million for capital and \$90 million for ministry expenses. As a member of the Treasury Board are you satisfied with receiving \$67 million from Treasury to complete your ministry's funding?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I'm always advocating for more at Treasury Board. That's why I'm on it. I will continue to advocate for more for this department, no question. We used to have a fund called the major facilities program, and that was finished in 2008. I would love to have that program back because it was a hundred million dollar fund that was divided between the two cities and rural. It helped build a lot of great projects, especially some of the big, you know, ag societies or recreational or cultural, all those things. I am always advocating for more money for this department. That's why the funding came through for the Alberta media fund, because of my advocating and being a member of Treasury Board.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. On page 146 of the plan, can you please identify the need for the 13 extra positions required for the new RAM?

Mrs. Klimchuk: They're not all for the RAM. We do have 13 more FTEs. Some of them are involved in other parts of our department, in the creative area with respect to the Culture app that we designed in terms of that calendar that we all have, the Culture Days calendar, that you probably have on your iPhone.

Mr. Pedersen: BlackBerry.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, you can get it on BlackBerry, too.

It's also about the cultural industries branch; heritage conservation adviser, who was involved with the flood issues; Oil Sands Discovery Centre, a manager for that; and then the Royal Tyrrell Museum, some other roles there. So it was not all just for the Royal Alberta Museum. Some of them are for . . .

Mr. Pedersen: The fiscal plan actually said that all 13 were allocated to the RAM, though.

Mrs. Klimchuk: No. It would be six. Six will be allocated to the RAM.

Mr. Pedersen: Thirteen is right in the plan, unless it's a misprint, or there were changes done afterwards.

Mrs. Klimchuk: If you look at the top, it says, "Main reasons for change," not the only reason. You're right, there are 13, but six will be for the Royal Alberta Museum.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thanks for the clarification.

On page 148 of the fiscal plan, can you identify the capital spending planned over the next three years, please?

Mrs. Klimchuk: In terms of the fund increasing?

Mr. Pedersen: Just what's on the horizon for capital spending, infrastructure.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I guess when you look here, especially in capital, what you're seeing is some of those grants. It looks like it's going down, especially in the first line. The Culture line right there is going from \$48 million to \$41 million to \$41 million. Some of those are grants – for example, the National Music Centre and the Mount Royal Conservatory – that are finished. That's why the numbers in terms of capital are a bit lower, because we've rolled out those funds. I guess my challenge, and what you can help me with is: what other kinds of projects do we need to keep funding here in Alberta in terms of, you know, projects that are big like the National Music Centre?

Mr. Pedersen: So you don't have anything that's been presented and proposed where you're sort of outlaying a three-year plan as to: we'll do project A, then B, then C?

Mrs. Klimchuk: You know, my wish, my capital ask, is the reinstatement of the hundred million dollar program. With respect to the capital that we need to build all the infrastructure that we have in our communities across Alberta, that would be my number one ask. The Wetaskiwin Reynolds Museum: there's a huge need there for another building to store all the great things that they have. There are lots of projects out there. The challenge is how to leverage them and how to prioritize them. That's why number one would be bringing back that major facilities program.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Do you have a list of infrastructure that is rated in poor condition, and if you do, do you know what the cost of the deferred maintenance is, and can you tell us where these projects rank on the Infrastructure priority list?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Infrastructure has all of those. I don't carry those lists. I don't have that list because Infrastructure is responsible for all the buildings in Alberta, all the buildings in every department. So I don't have that information. That would be better directed towards Infrastructure. A lot of my buildings are old. Some of them in heritage are maybe not in the best of shape, but that's the way they are. So we just have to make sure they're safe and looked after. With respect to a list that would be better through Infrastructure.

Mr. Pedersen: Is your department responsible for any of the, say, repairs and maintenance for any of the buildings?

Mrs. Klimchuk: No. We advise them what we need to be repaired, and then that's run through Infrastructure.

Mr. Pedersen: Do you share lists with Infrastructure, then, on the condition of the cultural or the community facilities province-wide, to have an idea of in what condition each one of those facilities might be?

8:10

Mrs. Klimchuk: Infrastructure is always asking all ministries to update, you know, the deferred maintenance or the challenges that each department has. I know that at the 14 sites that we run across Alberta, whether it's the Tyrrell or whether it's Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump or whether it's the Remington Carriage Museum, yeah, there are things that we're always looking at, and that's something that we would provide to Infrastructure.

The Chair: There are four minutes left.

Mr. Pedersen: Four minutes? Okay. Thank you.

The galleria. The proposed Edmonton galleria project has been making headlines lately. Can the minister provide any details around this project and if the ministry has made any type of commitments to this project?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The galleria project is something that's certainly been in the news of late. We are not involved. It's not our project, so we are not at the table on this project.

Mr. Pedersen: So you have not been involved in any conversations? You haven't met with any groups or anything?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I think we've probably had conversations with individuals, with some of the groups about what it could be and what it is, but the department formally is not involved in it at this moment, most definitely.

Mr. Pedersen: Anticipating that you will be involved at some point in time, there have been concerns raised by some stakeholders and some of the stakeholders up here in Edmonton, with theatre groups saying that this may be an overbuild of theatres and that there may be cost prohibitive factors to booking the space if and when they do need it. It may pull resources from community theatres. It may draw events from outlying areas into the downtown core. Maybe that's the objective. Do you share their concerns, and do you have any concerns of your own about the potential negatives of this project?

Mrs. Klimchuk: For me, when I meet on a regular basis with the folks at the Citadel, at the Winspear, at the Art Gallery, we're always concerned about making sure that there's enough theatre space but also enough rehearsal space. We know that's a huge issue here, just having rehearsal space. I look at the Varscona Theatre, which is being redone and funded. The Varscona Theatre seats are filled about 350 days of every year. They're to me a fantastic example. On one side, it's great to be talking about a project of this magnitude, but let's be realistic and make sure that those seats are filled, make sure that they address the needs of the community, whether it's a 200-seat theatre or a 1,000-seat theatre.

I think there's potential. Again, just from the conversations I've had with many of my stakeholders, many of them, you know, want to talk about partnerships and doing something together. I just want to make sure that the community is engaged and certainly at the table.

Mr. Pedersen: How much time, Chair?

The Chair: A minute and a half.

Mr. Pedersen: A minute and a half. So this might be the last question this round.

On page 49 of the estimates, I think, the Glenbow Museum will receive \$3.776 million this year, while the RAM will receive \$9.495 million. I know you talked about the Glenbow receiving an increase. Are they satisfied with this? Are they talking about changing their funding structure?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The Glenbow?

Mr. Pedersen: Yes.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Because they look after the Harvie collection, we know that for some time they have been concerned that the funding is a bit of a shortfall, so the funding increase of \$600,000 is going to help them. I know from Donna Livingstone, the conversations I've had with her, that they are kind of reinventing the Glenbow Museum and looking at how they need to perhaps give a different face to Calgarians and to Alberta. I think that that's very exciting. I think the funding model is such that they do look after the collection.

It's an independent board that runs the Glenbow. We don't run it from our department. It's run by an independent board of directors. The fact that we were able to support them with an additional \$600,000 this year to me was very important. They had been asking for an increase for some time. They didn't get all that they asked for, I can assure you, but the independent board is doing great work, and I look forward to greater things from them.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you, Minister.

The Chair: Well, thank you very much.

Now we'll move on to the Alberta Liberals. How would you like to proceed?

Ms Blakeman: I'll just do 10 and 10. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you. Whenever you're ready.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you. You know, Minister, every year I sit in this seat, and honestly I don't know whether I'm looking upon this with exasperation or grief or a mix of both. It's no surprise that this is my favourite department. This is my background. This is where most of my friends still work, and to see such infinitesimally small movement year after year is incredibly frustrating. Not much of it is your fault. We just don't have very much support from this government in this area. Really, you know, I could go on for a long time. There's no point. Just refer to any of my previous speeches in the last 17 years, and you'll have it. This is the sector that brings a lot to Alberta, creates jobs for much less money than anybody else, and has just been starved to skin and bones. No capacity building. It's been a tough, tough haul.

Let's get to what we're looking at this year. In the minister's opening comments she made a couple of statements that there was a \$600,000 increase to CIP and CFEP. If she could explain that – maybe I wrote it down wrong, but at the time I thought it was curious, which is why I wrote it down – and also the \$20 million in floods. Now, could you break that out for me, not off the top of your head? Just table it if you can, hopefully tomorrow, as to how that breaks out, because you said that the Culture '14-15 budget has some of that \$20 million, Municipal Affairs has some of the \$20 million, Culture '15-16, and Culture '16-17. How much is actually Culture budget and for what years, and how much is Municipal Affairs?

You talked about the social innovation: \$500 million being put in there in '14-15 from where? Who's putting that in, and how's that being accounted for? Then you said that it would generate \$22.5 million of interest – I'm putting this in quotations – part of which would go to the arts. My question is: what part of that \$22.5 million is going to the arts, and where is the rest of it going?

There's \$5 million more going to the media fund – that's vote 2.4 – but it's really almost restoring it to where we were two years ago. We had a budget of \$25.2 million in 2012-13, down to \$19 million. Now we're up to \$24.910 million. So, you know, yup, we're grateful for it, but we'd be a lot more grateful if it was a bigger number.

Okay. Oh, let me thank you very much. I had been lobbying the previous minister and, I believe, you as well to restore an MLA, usually, obviously, a government MLA, to the film and media advisory council. Thank you for doing that. It's really important that we have at least one other MLA that understands how that sector works, so I'm glad to hear that somebody is on that. I appreciate that. It makes a big difference.

Before I get too far away, let me go back to that social innovation account. Now, you start talking about it on page 18 of the business plan, where it's referenced, talking about "providing new mechanisms for governments and organizations to achieve goals . . . and creating new types of partnerships . . . innovative ways of addressing" things, et cetera, et cetera. Where is this actually written out? I don't understand what this stuff is. Where's the money coming from? Who's putting it in an account? Who has charge of it? Who decides that it's \$22.5 million that's coming out? What's the criteria for how the money will be distributed in the arts sector? Are there bonds that can be purchased by citizens to augment it, or is it meant to replace the Community Spirit and the Wild Rose funds as incentive funding? You know, I said: who's eligible? When is the \$22.5 million available?

8:20

Is the government using this to attract private money? Is it also going to be including individual donations or business corporations? What's expected out of the arts groups or not-for-profits that get money from this? What happens if a private investor takes a loss? Do the groups have to pony up and make up the difference? There is quite a bit of literature out there – this basically just picks off the cream. They only invest in stuff that's going to be a slam dunk for sure, and that, of course, does not give us innovation and creativity; it gives a very narrow product because people are being careful. They self-censor, trying to get hold of the money. I'm wondering: if the investor takes a loss, as I said, does the not-for-profit pay, or does the government underwrite? I'd like to know a lot more about that.

Other initiatives, which is vote 3.4 on page 38 of the estimates. What exactly is the list of other initiatives? Could I get names of the groups, names of the projects, how many of them are multiyear, and what year we're in of the multiyear funding?

I've had a question about facility development. Why are community leagues not able to access money from CFEP or CIP or other provincial money, especially if they're trying to line up matching funding from the feds and civic funding? There's a concern there that they can't get access to provincial money with which they can leverage two other governments' worth of money.

Also, a question about: if a school board chooses to sell a school to a municipality, what funding is available through Culture? If it's through CFEP, is there a particular definition of what kind of criteria they're looking for around retrofits?

On page 19 of the business plan we're talking about priority initiatives. We're developing a culture plan. Minister, Minister,

Minister, we had the Spirit of Alberta plan, we had the blueprint that Jeffrey Anderson worked on, and then there was another one before that. Help me. There have been at least three plans in the last seven or eight years. What are we doing? We don't seem to get any more money in the department. We don't seem to get that much more stuff happening. So what's the point of all these different plans?

If I go back to . . .

The Chair: You've got one minute left.

Ms Blakeman: Oh, God.

. . . the changing measurements on page 21. On page 22, the federal infrastructure money and capital spending: what is that exactly, and where is that money going?

A request from all of the NGOs and arts groups is that they really, really need untied, undesignated, unrestricted funds. You know, most of the stuff that comes from Culture is very specific as to how it can be used, and they really need money that they can use to do what they need to do. So if you're going to invent another fund, please come up with one that doesn't have restrictions on it like that.

On page 44 it talks about transfers from the government of Canada. Can you tell me, please, or break out where those transfers are broken out and designated?

On page 44 we've had quite a drop in cultural infrastructure money. That might be part of what you were talking about. Can you explain the drop from 2013 to '14-15?

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

Madam Minister, whenever you're ready.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. Thank you, Laurie. If I miss anything, we'll get back to you with the details.

With respect to your first question about the \$600,000 decrease in the OIP, that was moved over to the community initiatives program, so there was a \$1 million increase in that program. Sorry if that was confusing, but there is an additional \$1 million going into CIP this year, so that's why it sounded a bit strange, but with good intentions.

With respect to the floods the amount of dollars indeed is \$20,293,000 allocated to Culture. That is all Culture money. For example, some of it has been rolled out in 2013-14. In 2014-15 there will be funding of about \$8.8 million. Yeah. So it is all Culture money. That's where that fits in. Then in '15-16 it's \$5.55 million; in '16-17 it's \$1.5 million. Part of it is just making sure that groups can apply, and we can allocate the money over a number of years, especially in some of the areas where there are old, historic buildings and such that have been damaged and conservation has to take place. Of course, the Highwood museum in High River has everything stored in freezers still, boxes in a freezer, until they can actually take time to restore them back to what they were. I didn't know that that's what they did with that stuff.

Ms Blakeman: Well, it will mould.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. It'll mould. That's right. It's going to take a while to leverage that out. So that's that one.

With respect to the social innovation fund, that would be Bill 1, that was passed in the House. That's part of our fiscal plan, taking the interest off our endowments and using that money for social enterprise and for the innovation fund. The money will not be available until April 1 next year, the \$22 million of the first \$500

million, the interest off the \$500 million. I should make that clear. Part of the beauty of that project is that Premier Hancock and myself and Manmeet Bhullar are the ministers that are leading this conversation, and to me it's a tremendous opportunity to get Culture at the table and make sure that we look at funding things differently. That certainly is what it is.

We're going to be rolling out an innovation forum, that we're going to have on April 29, and we'll be discussing some of those models. Last September in Calgary we had the first-ever world social enterprise conference, put on by the Trico foundation. So there are some really interesting possibilities. All I want to make sure of is that all of our stakeholders are at the table during this conversation so we can actually solve some problems, whether it's how to leverage and support nonprofits, especially on the issue of sustainability. It's not capital; it's not operating. That's how it's going to be set up. I would say: stay tuned; as time goes on, with respect to this forum there will be more information coming out.

The Alberta media fund. You're right. It's a very popular fund. When I look at the economic impact it has, it's just – as you know, Laurie. I'm not going to bore you with all these stats. Any time I'm on a film set, it's like a minivillage in terms of the 300 people – like, *Fargo* employed 300 people for how many months? Six months just on the *Fargo* set alone. We know that we put some money in, and my goal is to keep more money in the funds so we can do more projects here. So that's one.

Thank you for the comment about the MLA being on AFAC. I appreciate that. I remember when you said that to me last year, and I said: well, we need to have someone there. So thank you.

Your comment – and I may have to clarify – about community league access to CIP and CFEP: with respect to retrofitting schools, if you're a nonprofit, you're eligible to apply for CFEP or CIP, but it would depend on what was, you know, in the school. If an organization rents a property, they have to have a lease for five years. Then they can apply for CFEP to renovate it, those kinds of things. So I don't know where that fits in, if there is a particular example that you have about community leagues.

8:30

For example, when you build a playground – there are lots of lush playgrounds in our province – you can match. The city puts in money, the province can match the money, and then the community league has the casino money. That happens all the time, and that's how they raise the money.

The last point. With respect to the Culture plan, yes, you're right that there has been much discussion on it over the years. I'm very proud of the group that we've assembled, with Todd Hirsch and Todd Babiak chairing it. To me, they bring some very, very different perspectives. When I look at what they're working on, some of the committees, it's community and youth engagement; literacy and accessibility; innovation and funding; business and culture – I spoke about that – creativity and transforming the economy; the story, our reputation; visibility; identity; ambassadorship and culture; and, of course, crossministry culture. Huge work. I think what they're doing is excellent work. I'm confident they're going to come out with something that's going to have a different twist.

When I look at the people that are on the Premier's council, I'm so impressed with the depth of talent and perspective that's on there. I think you'll be surprised. Again, this committee was only going to happen if they were going to do meaningful work, or it wouldn't have happened. That's what I wanted.

Transfers from Canada. Okay. Laurie, you asked one more question about the transfers from Canada, and that would be with respect to the Francophone Secretariat. That's what that is.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. The whole thing?

Mrs. Klimchuk: No. We put in half, and they put in half. The whole transfer is funded. The whole thing is all the secretariat. Is there anything else that I've missed, Laurie?

Ms Blakeman: Federal infrastructure money, page 22.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Page 22. I think I mentioned before to Blake that any time we get the building Canada funds, whether they're going to do a recreational facility in Medicine Hat or whether they're going to go to do a building in Calgary, those building Canada funds for those projects go through Culture, and then that's how they're leveraged out through the department. That's why you're seeing the numbers kind of going down as those projects are paid out and near completion. I hope that helps.

Ms Blakeman: Yeah. Okay.
Any time left?

The Chair: Yeah. A minute and 40.

Ms Blakeman: Great.
You're done?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah.

Ms Blakeman: Okay. Good. Two questions. Is CFEP still oversubscribed? I know that my hon. colleague from Medicine Hat talked about people not getting responses, but I think part of that was that they would get approved, and then there'd be no money because, in fact, the pot was empty and they were waiting until April 1, until it was refilled, so they could give out money. We're always using the forward Paul to pay last year's Peter. I'm sorry; I just butchered that. My apologies to anyone religious. But is it still oversubscribed?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. It is, big time, Laurie. You know, sometimes groups may not get the money. They may have to apply a second time, and we encourage groups to do that, to come back another time to reapply. But it is oversubscribed. That's all I can say. You know what? Frankly, if we put in another hundred million, I don't know if that would be enough. That's something that challenges me every day in terms of the infrastructure that we have, some of the aging infrastructure in communities that we have across Alberta, in cities and in towns.

Ms Blakeman: My last question is about the delays in the grants. This isn't new.

Mrs. Klimchuk: No. I know.

Ms Blakeman: It's actually systemic. Why can't this be fixed? What is the problem with it? There are consistent delays now in any kind of grant funding out of that department.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. You know, when Blake brought that forward – and you mentioned that to me last year, too – I believe that it's something we need to improve upon. Again, it also goes to the volumes of applications that we're receiving and making sure we do our diligence on those applications. But it's something that I'll definitely be addressing to improve, no question.

The Chair: Okay. Thank you.

This would be a good time for a quick five-minute break, and then we'll return for the New Democrat time slot.

[The committee adjourned from 8:36 p.m. to 8:41 p.m.]

The Chair: Okay. We'll call this meeting back to order.

MLA Eggen, when you're ready, how did you want to proceed?

Mr. Eggen: Because of my short time, I would prefer 10 and 10. I apologize. I know that's a little more awkward.

Mr. VanderBurg: It's the same time you get every frickin' estimates. What do you mean by short time?

Mr. Eggen: No, no, no. I sometimes go back and forth. Anyway, there are hecklers in the budget estimates. I find that remarkable.

Okay. I'm ready, Chair.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Go.

Mr. Eggen: All right. My first question is in regard to the arts and culture budgets from this year but then going back three years. While this budget has gone up from the previous year, when I go back to 2011-2012 and then '13, we haven't sort of made up that difference. Considering that during the last election there was a promise to increase budgeting for the Foundation for the Arts by \$10 million starting in 2013-2014 – and that was from your election platform – it's just something that's not happening. I'm just wondering if there is some sign or some seed in this year's budget that would indicate a movement towards proper investment in the arts and culture to make up the cuts that had taken place over the last two years. I'm just looking for that sign of hope for the people who depend on this funding to help to stimulate and to preserve arts and culture here in the province.

My second question is in regard to the community spirit donation grant program, which was eliminated in last year's budget. We just kind of thought it would come back this year because it was important for the myriad of groups that took advantage of it. It represented a \$15.5 million loss to charities and nonprofit organizations in the province and, more than that, I think just that sense of security to know that that innovation was available to move ahead. It wasn't like they were big donations, but it was, I think, a great innovation. I'm just wondering why you haven't gone to revisit that in this year's budget. I think it's a useful tool to help everybody from women's shelters, the Mennonite centre, the Pride Centre, and so forth. The tax credit still exists, but that doesn't help with the upfront operational costs associated with successful funding of these nonprofit groups. If I could perhaps put a bug in your ear to reinstate that program, or why haven't you done so in this year's budget?

My third question is in regard to the Alberta media fund and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. These were given very slight increases this year, but considering the return on investment and the raw capacity that this media fund had provided over the past few years, I guess what I'm looking for here is not just a commitment to this year's budget but, rather, a commitment to the next 10 years' worth of budgeting so that we know we can rebuild the movie industry here in this province. It's something that takes a long time to reattract, but it also pays the biggest dividends when we are trying to use economic measurements for our cultural investments. There are lots of excellent movie professionals that still have stuck it out here in Alberta, and they're sticking their toes back in here for a few months. We would like them to know that they can set up house, to start to build that nucleus of a movie industry that we might have seen similarly in Vancouver or Toronto.

My fourth question is in regard to, more specifically, the Calgary film studio initiative incorporating significant investment

from the private sector, a new private-public funding model to attract investment to the sector, and then a review by the Alberta multimedia development fund for screen-based production guidelines. The new studio and sound stage were promised to be built in Calgary and are supposed to be open in 2015, after the government rejected a proposal for a \$36 million facility. Is there a need for more studios? I believe there is in the province. Would we expect that we could in fact stimulate the building of more facilities to meet the growing need for our film industry?

My next question is in regard to the – we took this from the arts ministry website, the budget release notes. It talks about: "To help foster new, solution-oriented approaches to solving Alberta's complex social challenges, the Government of Alberta has established a \$1 billion Social Innovation Endowment Fund." Now, you know, this is very interesting. While I don't favour, really, this idea of an endowment for certain aspects of our economy or of our responsibilities as a province, I think it has some potential for Culture. I'm just curious to know: what is our cut in terms of Culture for the social innovation fund when it starts up here next year? You know, is that a fluid thing, or has that been established as a percentage of the total interest that is derived from that endowment fund? That's something that I'm very curious about, and lots of people are, I think, as well.

My next question I think the Member for Medicine Hat had touched on briefly. In regard to the galleria project, you know, it seems very fluid right now, but one of the principals of the galleria project had sort of intimated that the province would buy rental space from them as a way by which to move forward with the project. Besides the problems associated with a very large increase in theatre space concentrated in a very specific area, I'm just curious to know how they thought that they might be able to advertise or to suggest that they were going to have lease space taken by the provincial government as part of a way to finance their galleria project.

I mean, there's another issue with the galleria project, too, that I guess we should probably talk about, and that's the walkway that would connect some of these new buildings. It would go into a structure that the province is building, which is the new museum. I'm just wondering how – there must be some discussion about that. It sounds as though, based on the city's discussions that I heard this morning, there is some provision to have that walkway there anyway. So we must have some plan that tells us more about the interaction between the new museum and whatever galleria project they happen to come up with.

I guess, further to the Royal Alberta Museum, then, I have a question to ask about what in this year's budget, or moving forward, is going to happen to the existing museum site.

8:50

The Chair: You have two minutes left.

Mr. Eggen: Thank you.

You know, it's a prime piece of property, and it's still a very interesting and historic building now, really. I'm just curious to know what the intentions are of this ministry and this government in regard to the existing provincial museum site in Glenora.

My last question – and we've talked about this before – is that we have sort of A-list events that we help to finance here in the province. They provide tremendous returns. Some of them are like the Calgary Stampede and so forth. One of them is the Edmonton Folk Festival. You know, we've tried to get together to talk about getting consistent funding for the Folk Festival, which is comparable to the A-list sort of list as a cultural event in the province, and it hasn't achieved that yet. So I'm on a mission to

find that funding for the Edmonton Folk Festival, which they deserve and require as well.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

Madam Minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, and thank you, David. Just starting off with the arts and the AFA, as I think I said previously, very happy with the \$1.1 million increase of the AFA funding. I agree with you. I certainly support more funding going into it, and I will continue to advocate for more funding going into that. We know that when you look at direct funding across Canada, we certainly provide more dollars to the arts than B.C., Saskatchewan, or Manitoba, but again it's certainly something that I'm watching very carefully.

I've got stories here, whether its cultural relations, whether it's a performing arts organization, whether it's an individual artist. You know, I get these letters. I get these incredible stories. So I support you on that. Just in terms of a young man making his first film, called *Magnetic Reconnection*, Kyle Armstrong received a \$15,000 project grant for the short film. We know that that's where it begins with that. It's something I totally support you on, and I made that very clear to my colleagues as well.

With respect to the community spirit donation grant that is not with us any longer, again, as I said to Blake, I believe that it certainly did increase charitable giving by about 4.3 per cent when we finished the program last year, and they were bridged to last year. I guess for me – I've been, you know, talking about ANVSI and the group of people there that are going to be doing some work. I've heard from quite a few groups, but I have to say that I haven't heard from as many as I thought I would in terms of this grant. I know that many of these groups are still eligible for the CIP grant, still eligible for the CFEP, and many of these nonprofits are eligible to use the SCIP program, where they can hire an intern, someone in university who gets \$1,000 towards their education. That's called SCIP.

We know there are other programs out there, but I guess the magic of CSP is that a lot of people could more or less choose to do what they wanted with the money. I appreciate your comments on that, David. It's something that I think about as well. Time will tell whether or not it's something that we should bring back.

With respect to the Alberta media fund and the AFA, certainly, the Alberta media fund, when you're looking for a long-term increase, is something that I believe in. The three-year budget commitment in 2014-15 is going to be \$5 million, and then it will go all the way up in 2016-17 to \$13.6 million that will be going in. There is a vision for that in terms of rolling it out for the next three years, so that's a good thing.

With respect to the Calgary film studio that was a project that I got a bit stubborn on because I felt that it wasn't the right project to begin with, that \$36 million, of which half would have been taxpayers' dollars. So what we've ended up with is with Calgary Economic Development, with William F. White, and with the city of Calgary the film studio is going to be built. They are more or less finalizing the location. We put in \$5 million. What is interesting is that with the seven people who applied to build the film studio, there is a lot of interest in this conversation.

In Edmonton, of course, we have the Film Alberta studio, which I'm sure you've been to. It's all been brought back to life. That's where *Freezer* was filmed. *Freezer* won best movie in Alberta at the Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association. I was there Saturday night. It was all filmed in the film studio for 30 days – it

was all there – and the postproduction work actually took place here in Alberta.

So we're making some strides. I was very proud of that. To have two film studios, when this second one is built, in Alberta is phenomenal. It's just getting more work filmed up here. *Blackstone* films all around Edmonton and outside. Again, it's getting people up here. Of course, in Calgary you have the mountains and all of that stuff.

With respect to your comments about some of the guidelines as minister and the work that Matt does with the Alberta Film Advisory Council, we're always looking for input from the members in terms of that their feet are on the ground. We need to know what they're experiencing. That's what that's about, just making sure that what we're doing is on the right track.

With respect to the social innovation fund, as I've said before, we have an opportunity. With respect to your question about the percentage and who gets what, to me none of that has been allocated – none of that – so we can have the conversation. We can engage all of our stakeholders in the cultural sector and have that conversation. I think it's a really great opportunity. Nothing has been decided in terms of who's going to get what. As I mentioned, that event on April 29 that we're going to be having will be very important.

With respect to the galleria project, again, Culture is not at the table on this. Yes, I've been in contact with some of my stakeholders who are close to the project. There have been some comments about the pedway or the connection to the Royal Alberta Museum. The way the Royal Alberta Museum is situated, we want to make sure that whatever ends up in that spot, there's a proper walk-through there. That has to be done regardless of whatever happens there. There's been lots of debate at city council, of course, on the expense and all of those kinds of things.

With respect to the existing Royal Alberta Museum, which is certainly alive and well and open and having great programs, no firm decision has been made with respect to the site. There has been lots of interest, I should say. Government House, of course, turned 100 last year. It's a national historic site now, one of – how many historic sites do we have in Alberta? Anyway, we want to make sure that space is for public use. So if you have any ideas or any wisdom on what we should do with it, I mean, it's something that I'd like to hear about. There is lots of interest. But we're certainly not there in terms of closing it down yet because we need to keep it open.

With respect to the Edmonton Folk Festival I've had great conversations with Terry. I know last year he received some funding through the program to help with, I think, a trailer, one of the trailers. We've had some great discussions. I know that the way the Edmonton Folk Festival structures its festivals, they may not fit under the rules that we have because of their presenting versus some of the other ways. That's something that we're happy to work with them on. They continue to apply for CIP and for CFEP, and I've encouraged them to do that. I think that's what's really important.

I think that was a really fast answer.

Mr. Eggen: That was it, yeah.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I'm sure you have more.

Mr. Eggen: Well, we've got more time, yeah.

The Chair: There's a minute and 45.

Mr. Eggen: Okay. Good.

Further to the folk festival I think it's incumbent upon Culture and all of us, really, in the Legislature to clarify the definition of what that sort of top tier of cultural event is and to recognize maybe not just the Edmonton Folk Festival but some others that might fit into those positions. My vision of culture and then these destination events, I think, fit into our mandate to provide not only an enriched cultural experience for Albertans but to provide tourist opportunities.

9:00

I know you've done work with parks and tourism. Again, this requires long-term investment, where we recognize events that aren't just successful right now but that fit into the larger cultural pattern of North Americans to visit these places. You will get tourism from outside of Alberta and Canada with something like the Edmonton Folk Festival now and in the future as long as we invest and make sure that that bottom line is there. Yeah. The trailer was great. I used it this summer. I'm a volunteer at the Edmonton Folk Festival. You know, they might be doing great now, but we just want to make sure that that ball is in place 10 years from now.

Mrs. Klimchuk: As an arts presenter they received \$111,909 last year towards the festival and, of course, mobile kitchen upgrades and equipment as well.

Mr. Eggen: Yeah. Good.

Then, finally, with probably two seconds left: we have to be very careful to resist the temptation to sell that provincial land where the existing museum is because, you know, there are condo guys that are just drooling over it, right? But we don't have to sell it.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, it's in my constituency.

Mr. Eggen: Yes. I know. I know.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I appreciate your support of that.

Mr. Eggen: Oh, yeah. Don't sell it.

The Chair: Thank you.

We're now on to the PC caucus, and they've agreed to split up their time. We'll start with Dr. Brown.

Dr. Brown: Well, thank you, Madam Chair.

Heather, I'm sure that you probably will recognize the question I'm going to ask you because I've asked you similar questions in the past. One of the goals in your business plan is to promote the long-term growth of the cultural sector. Another one is to promote our heritage and make the historic resources more accessible to Alberta residents and to Canadians and international residents.

You mention in your business plan that your priorities are the flood-damaged institutions, the Royal Alberta Museum, and the Turner Valley discovery centennial project. There is no mention in there about the Glenbow Museum. I want to say that the Glenbow Museum in Calgary is, of course, the trustee and custodian of over a million artifacts, objects of the province of Alberta. They're all owned by the province of Alberta. It's managed by an independent society, but those collections belong to the province of Alberta. It has an art collection which is the largest in western Canada. It's over four times the collection that they have in the Art Gallery of Alberta. They have massive collections of over 100,000 objects of cultural history; 48,000 First Nation artifacts, including a pre-eminent collection of Plains Indian artifacts; a military collection

of over 26,000 items; and a mineralogy collection. Each of those would warrant a museum in their own right.

Now, despite those riches the Glenbow is expected to operate on a budget of about \$3.7 million while the Royal Alberta Museum is getting 9 and a half million dollars a year. So my questions are: what will you do to better display those cultural treasures that we have in southern Alberta there? Would you consider creating some additional space off site from the present site to, for example, build an art gallery? Will you consider some new ways of creating additional space for those different collections?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Neil. When I became Minister of Culture, I started to have conversations with the good folks at Glenbow, specifically now with Donna Livingstone. Currently Alberta Culture provides about one-third of the Glenbow revenue. They had asked for an additional \$1.3 million this year. We started with the \$600,000 this year, but we've made a three-year commitment so they know exactly what they're getting for the next two years, which is really important.

You're right; they have an incredible collection, probably similar to what we have at the Royal Alberta Museum, which no one has ever seen either. It's a constant struggle for these museums to showcase their items. Luckily, of course, the Glenbow has an endowment of about \$25 million and, of course, they have the fundraising. It's run by an independent board. That's why in terms of how they run it and manage it, it's a little bit different than how we run our museum. But for me, I guess, what I like to hear with the Glenbow is that they're kind of reinventing what they would need to offer and their space. I think some of the galleries are going to be set up in a different manner so they can display some of their pieces that no one has seen.

Dr. Brown: Well, they are shoehorned into a very small area right now with absolutely no parking on-site. They have, thankfully, got a small increase this year, \$600,000, which is something. What I'm trying to get across is: will you consider moving to a different model? I mean, the fact that it is a – I've always heard this example that, yes, it's managed by a different board, so we're not responsible for all the financing of it. Well, to hell with that. Those are province of Alberta's artifacts down there, and if there's a better way to display them, then you'd better terminate the contract for the art display or whatever and put it in a provincial institution. You've got to do something with those. It is a disgrace right now that we've got all those things hidden away down there. We don't have a single public art gallery in the city of Calgary to speak of; one floor in the Glenbow Museum that's dedicated to it. We need to do something about it. I'm asking you to get your officials on this thing and to get moving so that we can do something with the Glenbow Museum. Don't use the excuse that it's just a private institution down there that you're dribbling some money into. These things belong to the people of Alberta, and they deserve to be treated much better.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. I'll take that. Thanks, Neil.

Dr. Brown: One more quick question.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. Go ahead.

Dr. Brown: The quick question is: can you tell me whether or not your institutions and cultural organizations that are funded by Alberta Culture are required to adhere to the code of conduct or to be in compliance with the Alberta Human Rights Act?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I would suspect that many of the groups that we fund, whether they're nonprofit or voluntary groups, abide by that. I'm not aware of any particular examples, but I know you and I have spoken before. If there's a particular example you want me to look into, I'm happy to do that. But overall, I haven't had any complaints yet on this file.

Dr. Brown: Well, I guess I want to ask you if there are any conditions that you put on grant funding to ensure that they do comply with the Alberta Human Rights Act and if there's a questionnaire that they fill out or something as part of the application.

Mrs. Klimchuk: No. We don't do that.

Dr. Brown: Okay. Well, I suggest you do.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Okay. Thank you for the suggestion.

Dr. Brown: Those are my questions.

The Chair: Thank you very much.
Now we'll move on to MLA Jablonski.

Mrs. Jablonski: Heather, I'm not going to be anywhere near as hard on you as Neil was. Just got a couple of questions. You're a wealth of information tonight, so thanks very much for that.

You mentioned earlier that you were very proud of the social endowment fund, so I'd like to ask you a few questions about that. Budget 2014 includes \$500 million for the social innovation endowment fund, part of which will be dedicated to the cultural sector. Can you elaborate on what criteria will be put in place for allocations from this fund?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mary Anne, for the question. I know I'm probably going to repeat myself when Laurie asked the question as well as David. I guess, when I look at the opportunity we have with Premier Hancock and myself and Manmeet Bhullar more or less leading it, when I look at cultural innovations, what we can do to leverage some of the great things we're doing here already and looking at different models of doing things, I think that's what's going to be absolutely critical. I think we have an opportunity here. The Premier's Council on Culture as well as the ANVSI group are groups that will probably be providing some ideas for us. I challenge every group out there if they have something that they want to do. I use the example of the Down's syndrome group here in Edmonton and what they do. We know there are some really interesting models with respect to housing the homeless. There are other projects where it's as simple as mentoring and getting more youth to get involved in a project. I think it's an incredible opportunity. I have worked very hard to make sure Culture was in there, not just having a social innovation fund but having the cultural in there as well.

As we move forward, in terms of the session we're going to have and the input we're going to be asking for from Albertans, that's going to be really critical. I think, again, it's just about what we have here in Alberta. I think we take a lot of things for granted, and we need to talk about it more.

9:10

Mrs. Jablonski: Thanks. We just wanted to see if you'd give the same answer three times.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Did I?

Mrs. Jablonski: So yes, I'm happy that you have the Culture sector involved in that endowment fund. But how much money

will actually be available from this fund, and how soon before nonprofit organizations can access this funding?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, again, assuming the return that we get on the investment money of \$22.5 million next April and then the following April an additional \$22.5 million, which will be up from the billion dollar investment, in terms of allocating to the nonprofit sector, nothing has been written in stone as to who gets what. So that's what I mean. It's an incredible opportunity for all of us to look at. Another area to look at is the area of research, to look at how we manage our data, how we share our data. That's something that has come up as well.

So no, nothing has been decided yet. This is why it's a really great opportunity to look at the organizations in all of our communities, some of the nonprofits that are doing great work. I think a great example to me is Habitat for Humanity. They have now built 134 houses in Alberta. Because of the funds that they have banked up every year and the collateral, they're now able to build more and more houses. If you look at a model like that, getting people into homes and out of apartments and people putting their own heart and love into building the house, I mean, to me, projects like that are just phenomenal. I think if we just look at things differently – we're all going to have to think very differently because it's not capital, and it's not operational.

Mrs. Jablonski: So there's no money going to be involved in funding for these nonprofit organizations?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Oh, yeah, there will be something. The funds will be available. We have to determine how we're going to roll out those projects and exactly what they will entail of \$22 million.

Mrs. Jablonski: And how will we be able to do that?

Mrs. Klimchuk: April 1 is when the money will start rolling out next year.

Mrs. Jablonski: Are there criteria for the program?

Mrs. Klimchuk: The criteria for the program are something that we are working on. Again, we need to hear from the community and to see what people want. When I look at some of the projects that come across my desk, whether it's the Arts on the Avenue or The Quarters, the arts project there, when the community support is there, it's a very powerful message. Those are the kinds of projects that you want to move on.

Mrs. Jablonski: Okay. Thank you.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you, Minister. I don't know if you'll recall, but on a very cold day in February, which isn't that long ago – I know we've got more snow here tonight as we are sitting here. It's quarter after 9 in the evening. I don't know what it will be like when we go home. But on that cold day in February Matt Jeneroux, Sandra Jansen, and I were with you in Calgary when you announced that \$5 million from your department was being allocated to help pay for a \$22.8 million film studio in Calgary. I want to thank you for that, Minister. You really, truly care about the work that you do. You're very thorough. You're very thoughtful. I found your announcement was really informative. Much of what you said that day I really didn't know as an MLA, and I know that I recall you saying that 80 per cent of all the film

production dollars that were spent in Alberta with film was in Calgary and in southern Alberta. Also, you said that film, television, and digital media were responsible for contributing over \$400 million over a five-year period, which is phenomenal.

You had also indicated that the site for the new studio was going to be finalized in the near future. I wondered where you were with that and if you will be able to have it up and running by 2015 as you had planned.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, thank you, Yvonne. I appreciated you and Sandra and Matt being there at that announcement. Very important and something that I made a commitment to when I became Minister of Culture.

With respect to a couple of things. First of all, the site is being finalized. In my conversations with Calgary Economic Development, they have not finalized it yet. They're very close. Their wish is to get it built so that it's opening in 2015. Right now they have temporary offices where the Currie army base used to be, the barracks there. They have a number of temporary film studios there. That's where they are now. William F. White will be the major tenant and has been extending the deadline so they can stay there. *Heartland* has a temporary set there. *Fargo* had a set there as well. So it's really critical – I know they would love to get shovels in the ground next week, but I don't think that's going to happen – the sooner, the better.

I just want to add one thing. When I said that there were 53 productions that were filmed here, just in Alberta, last year, it's the artists, the writers, the camera crews, the producers, the actors, the graphic designers, the wardrobe designers, the editors, the photographers, the musicians, all those things, the people that help when they're on a movie set. I was on another movie set called *Fallout Asylum*. They're filming a science fiction movie. I was in the Strathmore junkyard. They're filming a science fiction movie for the science fiction channel. Apparently, in Alberta we're quite good with horror and science fiction. Hey, you know, it's a movie.

When I was there, they had run short on crew and cast – crew, of course: Laurie knows all about that – or just people helping out, right? So they got a bunch of students from SAIT, and those students were able to participate and do some things. They're there in the film. They're in the school there. That, to me, was just a wonderful example. They were helping to prep the site. They were doing a lot of the grunt work that's required when you do a shot, an incredible amount of work. So that said it, to me, when I saw those kids there. They were so excited.

For *Freezer*, here in Edmonton, there was a young man at NAIT who is an incredible wizard with digital media, and he was able to help on *Freezer* with a particular scenario they were doing, and he got his credit on the movie *Freezer*. So when you get those kinds of tangibles happening, that's why I think the film studio is important. I firmly believe that there will be, you know, after we get this second film studio built, I suspect, lots of interest out there.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you.

Another question I had as well. I was really pleased when I saw that with the Alberta Film Advisory Council, you had appointed our colleague Matt Jeneroux to be the MLA co-chair, and the reason why I'm saying that is because he is really one of our favourite MLAs: a young MLA, dynamic, energetic . . .

An Hon. Member: It's on the record.

Mrs. Fritz: Yeah.

. . . and cares deeply. Well, Matt, when you exceed the announcement and did the introductions and talked about the films that were there, it was very impressive.

But I did wonder if you, Madam Minister, would be considering expanding the role of the council in any way to coincide with some of what the announcement had entailed, especially about the studio, the finalization, the Calgary Economic Development Authority, the groups that were involved.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, as a matter of fact, Matt and I were in Calgary this weekend at the Alberta motion picture industries association event where they gave out – well, the comedians said that they were giving out 2,000 awards, but it wasn't really 2,000. There were a lot of awards being given out. We know that from just being in the room and interacting. Matt had just finished having a series of one-on-one meetings with all the members of the Alberta Film Advisory Council, and the support he provides to me in working with my department is invaluable.

Also, just hearing what's out there, we have the actor representatives, we have the union representatives, we have all the different sectors, all those areas working together, so I think that, moving forward, there will be lots of work for Matt. Again, there are lots of interested people wanting to film here. We know this industry is very labour intensive, and we know that the production is about jobs staying in Alberta, and that's what I said on Saturday night. It's about keeping the jobs in Alberta, and everyone liked that. So I know there will be lots of work for Matt.

Mrs. Fritz: Thank you. Great, Matt.

The Chair: Thank you.

We have two minutes and 30 seconds left.

MLA VanderBurg, did you have a question?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, just quickly, the department recognizes the need for more funding in the community initiatives program and the community facility enhancement program. For most of us in rural Alberta, out of your department that's what we get. We don't get these millions of dollars like MLA Brown and MLA Blakeman were talking about earlier. But I do see the need for enhancing the funding for those programs. In my constituency alone – you know, the boundaries keep getting bigger and bigger and bigger in rural Alberta, so whenever you gain three or four more communities, you gain dozens and dozens of nonprofits. So we don't see that funding going up as much as the need is going up. The demand for our programs is just outstripping the funds. Do you see an opportunity in your next few upcoming budgets to have increased funding for those programs?

9:20

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. Certainly, being able to be on Treasury Board and being able to advocate for the media fund and advocate for everything else is very important to me. I think that, especially for CIP, you know, a \$1 million increase, which is about 40 projects that can be funded, is better than nothing. But, of course, I agree with you, George, and I agree with what you're all saying. More money is one solution, but it's also looking at the projects and what everyone is involved in.

One of the challenges that I'm seeing, especially when we build playgrounds in the cities versus playgrounds maybe in towns like Duchess and places like that, is that it's astounding that a playground cheque for \$30,000 goes a long way in the city; \$30,000 is, like, nothing, right? There is a bit of a challenge when I look at the money, the differences between urban and rural and how we can, you know, as you say, work at that and try to maybe

trim some of the costs, especially when it comes to that area. Playgrounds are built through my department. Last year we funded \$5 million in playgrounds or some crazy amount because they're not built by the Department of Education. They're built through my department.

I appreciate your comment.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Now we'll return to the Wildrose rotation. There are 10 minutes available.

Mr. Pedersen: Yes. Thank you very much. I'd like to start off with: Matt, why are you so awesome? Good for you. I appreciate the hard work you're doing, Matt.

Minister, getting back quickly to the endowment fund, you're talking about that fund potentially putting about 22 and a half million dollars per year into your funding. Is that correct? Is this going to be used to replace current funding, or is this going to augment funding for your ministry?

Mrs. Klimchuk: It's going to augment. No question.

Mr. Pedersen: So you're not going to have to challenge and fight to retain what you already have?

Mrs. Klimchuk: No.

Mr. Pedersen: You're on the record.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I'm on the record, and I'm proud to be on the record.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Awesome.

On page 38 of the estimates once you subtract the 2013 Alberta flooding items, the budget spend is actually only \$150 million, which puts it 3 and a half per cent below the 2012-2013 spending and only 5.2 per cent higher than 2013-14 spending after taking a 9 per cent cut in '13-14. Can the minister tell us how her ministry is meeting its goals with less funding?

Mrs. Klimchuk: What line are you on, Blake?

Mr. Pedersen: I'm looking at your overall funding on page 38. When you look at 2012-13, you're at \$155 million. You back out the flood money out of \$157 million; you're down to \$150 million, and that's over a two-year period.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, you know, when you look at, again, the ebbs and flows that go through the department with respect to some of the larger projects that we've completed, I firmly believe that the increases that I've advocated for and succeeded in getting in this budget speak for themselves. These are, for example, the Alberta media fund, the AFA, the community initiatives program, the increase for the Historical Resources Foundation, et cetera, et cetera. Those are very meaningful to the groups that are there. When I think of the Historical Resources Foundation and the projects that are going across Alberta that volunteers are doing, bringing back to life different buildings, I believe that the \$14 million increase in my budget is very important. I maintain that we're going to keep doing great work. Again, I think the proof is there in terms of what we're doing and what we're offering to Albertans, and Albertans are going to notice that.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. On the same page spending in Culture has declined by 3 and a half per cent since the '12-13 budget, but the

funding for ministry support services, in section 1 on page 38 of the estimates, has increased by 16 per cent over the same time frame. Your ministry office is really not setting a positive example when the mantra is: living within our means. Can you tell us why you have chosen to redirect two years of potential front-line funding of \$1.7 million to your office expenses?

Mrs. Klimchuk: You're talking about the increase in line 1, correct?

Mr. Pedersen: Section 1, yeah.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Section 1. When I look at that, ministry support services, part of the challenge is anticipating what the potential manpower settlements are going to be. That is certainly in there, a possible 1 per cent increase. As well, there is an additional scheduling assistant in my office. I guess part of the challenge for me is connecting with all the nonprofits and all the groups out there. We get a lot of what we call telephone action requests, where someone will phone and say: "How do we do this? How do we do that?" So my staff spends a lot of time trying to help the person, get them the right information, and that's very important to me. A lot of this is front-line services that we're providing, especially, you know, in a minister's office. It's also all of the IT infrastructure, of course, which is kind of in every department. That's contained in there as well. That's under corporate services.

As a minister I am confident that what we're doing is being respectful of the challenges and respectful of every dollar that's spent in my office. But at the end of the day, for me to make sure that I can connect with all of those groups that are out there, I have to have my staff. I couldn't do this job if I didn't have my great ministerial staff or my departmental staff. I'll tell you that right now. Just like you, Blake, with your great staff. It can be long days, but that's okay. That's why we love what we're doing.

Mr. Pedersen: A shout-out for Dominic. Way to go.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Gee, I think I made him blush.

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah, you did.

Mr. Anglin: Madam Chair, point of order. I don't think anyone is allowed – I might withdraw the blushing point of order. Thank you very much.

The Chair: Thank you.

Please proceed.

Mr. Pedersen: Thanks, Joe.

So tying into what you just said here – I'll let you comment on this – the Canadian Taxpayers Federation document showed that your ministry employs about eight FTEs for communications. Maybe that falls into what you just talked about. It looked like the average salary is about \$110,000 and change. Can you confirm this? Where in the budget would we see these FTEs reflected? Please give some of the details about the types of projects that these people work on.

Mrs. Klimchuk: You know, the communications staff: there is a team of people that work, and many of them are doing, of course, great work. How it works in my office is that I have a press secretary, number one. There also are nine positions in our communications branch, and many of them have very different roles. Some of them are public affairs officers, some of them are interns, and some of them are administrative positions. I can assure you that they're not all making \$108,000, for sure. Part of it

is, again, going back to the writing and the reports that I request, the information bulletins. We respond to the media a lot because of all the things that we're involved in. It's also working with the program areas, whether it's the grant programs, Alberta Culture Days.

The staff in the communications branch represent just 1 per cent of the staff in the whole Ministry of Culture. I have 499 staff. You know, for me, Blake, they're doing important work; for example, preparing for Alberta Culture Days. That's a huge task. Last year we had almost 1,500 events in 99 communities. Every year that ramps up. You can only well imagine what it's like to ramp up to that, to support the groups out there. I know the work, how they support me. I'm the kind of minister who – I write to a lot of people, and I write a lot of letters. As I say, I couldn't do this job if I didn't have all of their support.

9:30

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Again following up on page 38, I reiterate the fact that overall spending in Culture on the operational side as per your budget has declined about 3 and a half per cent since 2012-13. When you look at lines 2.1, 3.1, and 4.1 for program support, they've increased by 26 per cent, or \$785,000, over the two years. Again, can the minister explain why bureaucracy is eating up more of the ministry's limited funding, that could go to front-line services and programs?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Well, I think that, to be fair, some of those folks are doing front-line services and supporting all the great work that goes on across Alberta. When I look in program support, for example, it's going to support the folks who run the Reynolds museum or the ones that are working at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes on. There's the example of Vitalize. There's a great team of people that work very hard on that. That's coming up in June. For me, it's making sure that those front-line service people are there and supporting them from behind the scenes. No question.

I should mention one other thing. The stars of Alberta is a great initiative. It's the volunteer celebration that we do every December where everyone can nominate volunteers in their area, in their community. We have two of those that are for youth. I wanted to raise that back to the question about youth and volunteerism. It's a great way to engage youth. Of course, in one of the areas – that's stars of Alberta – we get hundreds of those.

The Chair: Fifteen seconds.

Mr. Pedersen: Pass.

The Chair: At this time we will move back to the Alberta Liberals.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much. One of the sectors that I notice is not being well supported – although I believe the human rights and multiculturalism fund is now under Justice, this ministry does deal with a number of the other not-for-profits that are working to serve new immigrants, new Canadians. It seems to me that given the in-migration and the increase in those populations, we are not keeping up with commensurate funding for that sector. I was recently at a leadership forum for young women that was put on by the Indo-Canadian women in association with the Muslim women. They're getting a little bit of funding from the feds but almost nothing from the province. I think it's an area that we do need to look to. We say that we want to work with these communities, that we want to develop a new Alberta. I'm still looking around at a number of the groups that I go to, and there's

no representation there. The women come up to me and say: "We don't know how to get in. We don't know how to do this. Can you come and help us do this?" Well, I can't individually go and help each person. Is the department aware of this? Are there any plans? Are you looking toward this? I'll let you answer that.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Laurie, for raising that. I'm glad you were at that event. In the department we have something called community development officers. We have 29 of them. They do work all across Alberta, and it's free. They'll go in and talk to a group about governance, about fundraising, about how to fill out a grant application. If there's a particular group that we can help you with, please let my office know.

You're right that for many of the new immigrants coming here, whether they come from other provinces or other countries, whether it's the francophone community or others, we know there are huge issues that we need to support. It's often crossministerial as well with other departments, whether it's Human Services or Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour. I think that these 29 folks do amazing work, and they're always available. If you let me know, I'd be happy to follow up with the group and break down some of those barriers.

Ms Blakeman: Good suggestion. Thank you. I don't mind being reminded of that.

I also wanted to go back to enlarge the discussion around arts infrastructure. I know there have been a number of things happen with the – they've renamed it again – EPCOR complex in Calgary, but here in Edmonton we are still missing a replacement for the Kaasa Theatre, which is a 350-seat theatre, which they put a gigantic air-conditioning unit in the middle of. Anyway, the Varscona is very useful and well used. It's 175 seats. Then you jump to the Citadel, which is 685 and 675 or something; there's not much difference between Maclab and Shoctor. What I'm told repeatedly is that we're really short on visual art space, gallery space. We're short on dance space in Calgary, I think, and theatre space in Edmonton. We've had no money to even plan for the future. I hope that somewhere there is a file that says, "Things to do when we get money," and that this is in it. I'll let you respond to that.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you. I know that, you know, the comments earlier about the galleria – it's one approach for some of the theatres that are in their plan. I agree with you that the visual gallery space is a huge issue. In Calgary right now three of the art galleries are coming together to do a vision of one contemporary art gallery of Calgary, Contemporary Calgary, and they're going to be putting them all together. They're looking at using the old science building in Calgary. They've all come together, which is really exciting. That will be a great space.

Also, in Grant MacEwan's space there will be access to some facility there, but it might not work as well because it's a learning place, so it'd only be available maybe from April to August. I agree with you about dance space, rehearsal space, sprung floors for dancers. I'm totally on your side. I guess the challenge any time we build something is that we want to make sure that we can allocate it, if possible, if it's a hub, with nonprofits and with all those things attached to it like theatres.

Ms Blakeman: Well, I mean, the issue is that most of the spaces have not been purpose built. With the exception of very few buildings like the EPCOR Centre, Winspear, the Citadel, the art gallery, every other space you can think of has been repurposed from something else, which is why we don't have enough

rehearsal space. We're taking a fire station and turning it into a theatre. There's no rehearsal space there.

The second thing is that the stagnant funding in this area has really – there's been no ability to grow. I mean, it's the same pie, more forks. We get different permutations of organizations. You know, we didn't use to have to compete with the health sector and the education sector for money. Now you've got little, tiny not-for-profits competing with universities and schools and giant hospitals for a little tidge of the money that's available. It's really prohibited us from growth in any company size. All we've seen is shrinkage. We have seen no growth.

You know, simple examples like: how many original theatre productions come out of any given theatre anymore? I mean, we're down to one, if we're lucky, from a theatre in a year, and we used to have four or five regularly. This does cost us. By not funding these areas, it does cost us in the long run. Since the not-for-profits have kind of – I don't know how that happened – osmosised into this department and the responsibility for looking after them and in many ways for funding them, as a funding source, has picked up a whole other area, it again is precluding growth.

The CIP funds: everything is tagged as one-time-only projects and facility enhancement, and that's not about sustainable, predictable funding that you can build and grow on. How a company decides they're going to do a huge production three years from now and works towards that: everything works against their being able to do that. You know, the *Sweeney Todds* of the past, some of the dance collaborations we've seen just aren't happening anymore because we're not allowing that to happen.

My goodness, that was a long speech. Is anybody still awake here?

9:40

The Chair: Two minutes left.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I would just say that, you know, the comments about our cultural infrastructure: for sure, there are issues. No question. I agree with you, Laurie, on that. To me, cultural infrastructure is very, very important moving forward. I know that that's why I'm pushing to get back the major facilities enhancement program, that hundred-million-dollar program that we had, so at the end of the day, people can come and say: okay; we're going to build this project this year and in two years that project. There are some really good projects on the horizon right now that people are talking about. My challenge is to say: okay; we can do this maybe next year and then maybe whatever. So I'm always looking to groups who are thinking way ahead. I support you on that. If we could get that back, that would help with some of the issues we have, especially in Edmonton and in Calgary as well.

Ms Blakeman: Fair enough. But we can't have buildings without programming in them, and I think they go hand in hand. It's one thing to get the infrastructure money, but there will be nothing in them if we can't support the programming.

Can I just say how impressed I was with the Member for Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill? Thank you. That was very refreshing. I appreciate his impassioned speech on behalf of some of Alberta's artifacts.

Thanks very much, Minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Laurie.

The Chair: Thank you very much.

At this time we will move to the PC rotation. We have MLA Jeneroux.

Mr. Jeneroux: Great. I get to speak now. Thank you, Minister, and thank you, staff, for being here late at night. Thanks, hon. Member VanderBurg, too, for that. I have a few questions. I have the luxury of being able to talk to the department quite often, so a lot of my questions have been asked throughout the year. I feel there's a real opportunity within the film industry, and I just want to kind of get it out there. There are a lot in the private sector that are extremely interested in film in Alberta. I've been able to talk with a number of them, and they just don't really know how to get involved. I find that it's rather ironic that the film industry is really great at communicating internally, but they don't do a lot of the communicating outside. If anything, they're the pre-eminent communicators in our province here. So to be able to expand that out: I don't really know what the role of the ministry is in that, but I feel there is a role, maybe a leadership role, in helping with that. I know it's something that I'm passionate about and will continue to work on within my role, but I just wanted to kind of put that out there when I had the opportunity.

One concern – and perhaps I'll provide a little bit of feedback and background to it, Minister – is the Royal Alberta Museum. I go there at least once a month, maybe twice a month with my girls. Molly's favourite exhibit is the bug exhibit. Lily likes the buffalo with the bleeding nose. I don't know why, but we always have to see it. Very cute. I go there on a Sunday. You know, I'm cheap, fiscal conservative cheap, and it costs me, I think, \$6 to go there on Sunday. That's half price. The place is packed on Sunday before the hours of, I think, 11 o'clock or something.

It seems like we're putting a lot of money into the Royal Alberta Museum – it's continually going up – and I feel like we're missing an opportunity here to make it more of an attraction, that we can maybe raise a few more funds in admission. I know the Royal Tyrrell Museum is the only museum in the province that actually makes money. I feel that with the museums, especially the Royal Alberta because that's my experience, there's a missed opportunity there for us to bring some more funds into this and to have us spending less on it.

I'm hoping you can kind of comment on your direction in the next few years and the strategy on that. Thanks.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Matt, again for your help with the Film Advisory Council. It can be a very sensitive group of people because everyone is very passionate about their particular project and what they believe in and what they want to do next and whom they're going to cast and what they're going to do. It's like their own little movie sets within a movie.

With respect to the investment, you know, the whole concept of public-private investment, encouraging more people to come in, I know that there's a group here in Edmonton called Mosaic. They have done *Tiny Plastic Men*. They're based here in Edmonton, and their investors are their parents, which is great. You know, the parents had some money to put in. But I guess that at the end of the day, for me, is the role of the private sector, which is why the film studio is so important to send that message out and say: yeah, government is going to put in \$5 million, but you had better make sure that all your ducks are in a row and that operationally, when you open, on the days that the film studio is not being used, you can still afford to pay for the gas and the lights and to keep it going. So I agree with you. That's a discussion that we've kind of had on and off with the Film Advisory Council. I think that's really important.

With respect to the Royal Alberta Museum, actually, my favourite place is the bug room. I love the bug room. When my kids were little, because I live very close to the museum, we'd walk over there at least once a week and go check it out and see the bugs and usually have a snack and then go to the gift shop, of course, because the gift shop is one of the best in the city. Thank you for sharing that.

The rates. We've been very strategic with our rates, and they haven't probably gone up since about 2002, 2003, so we have some issues with that. We know that we want to make it affordable for families, but compared to what some of the other facilities charge like the Telus World of Science – it's a great place, but it's expensive to go in there. We need to do some catch-up but to be respectful and to make sure that it's affordable. Everything we do is measured. It's just great that the museum on the weekend is packed, and that's what I hope for the Royal Alberta Museum. Downtown will be much more interactive.

If you were able to go and see Chop Suey on the Prairies . . .

Mr. Jeneroux: I was there last weekend.

Mrs. Klimchuk: . . . which was a fabulous exhibition – I think it's just closing – there were interactive iPads, and you could do stuff. The kids could dance on this thing where fake koi were swimming. What we're going to be having: the new technology in the new Royal Alberta Museum will be first class. Those are the kinds of things you want to track for our cultural tourism. All those things that we kind of practise to, you know, drive more people to come to Edmonton and visit and to then maybe go to other parts of Alberta, to start here and then make a road trip out of it.

I appreciate your comments, and I'm glad that you go there on a regular basis.

The Chair: Thank you.

There are still three minutes if the PC caucus has any more questions.

Mr. VanderBurg: We didn't get a chance to really talk a little bit more on my favourite program, that we spent so many dollars on – you touched on a bit – the playgrounds. Have you given any thought to capping the amount of money that nonprofits and school boards and parent associations could apply for? It's an endless pit.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I thank you for raising that. I know that certainly for touring, for trips, for travel now it's capped at \$10,000. I think that if a group can get \$10,000 to go to wherever they need to go, a volleyball tournament or whatever, that's fantastic. The challenge is that because of, more or less, the bureaucracies in the two cities, Edmonton and Calgary, and because of the way that playgrounds are set up, you have to use their suppliers, you can't use volunteer labour, you can't do this, and you can't do that. In rural Alberta you can do the volunteer labour, all of that. You can get your friend across the street who recycles tires to put the tires in the playground. Way more flexibility.

So I am greatly concerned about the costs of some of these playgrounds. I agree. It's something that's only going to get higher in terms of what's out there. I guess that just some of the ways that we used to build playgrounds in the city – we've kind of moved away from that. That's something I am concerned about.

I appreciate your comment about, you know, capping it. They're eligible for up to \$125,000. It just depends on when they apply and all those kinds of things. I appreciate your comment

because I am concerned about the amount of dollars that are going there.

9:50

Mr. VanderBurg: I notice in our constituency that when government doesn't provide as much money, the volunteer base gets out. It's a great weekend putting up a playground in Darwell, Alberta, with 250 people, and we have these work bees. I think that if we really want to create the sense of volunteerism and show our young people how important that is, sometimes government shouldn't be giving so much. I think that many times I've had to recommend to the groups that are applying, you know, to lower their expectations. At the end of it, when they do, they appreciate it. I think that somehow we should have a look at how much we spend on playgrounds, and we should be putting a cap on it. It would be a great way to increase our volunteers and show the young people that not everything is handed to you, that you have to participate a bit. There would be a little more thanks for what's been provided as well.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. A little bit of blood, sweat, and tears, right?

Mr. VanderBurg: A little old school from an old guy.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. Thank you, George. I appreciate your comments, too, especially about when groups apply. It's always "up to \$75,000" or "up to \$125,000." That's the challenge. It's a bit daunting and scary at times when you think of all the asks that are there across Alberta and doing the right thing, right?

Mr. VanderBurg: Yeah.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thanks, George.

The Chair: Thank you.

Eight minutes left for the Wildrose.

Mr. Pedersen: Thank you very much, Chair. I'll try and get three or four quick questions in here, Minister. On page 38, line 3.2, can you please describe what the community engagement is as it accounts for 7.5 per cent of the operating budget?

Mrs. Klimchuk: That would be in . . .

Mr. Pedersen: Community and voluntary support services.

Mrs. Klimchuk: It's all the community development officers, that I was bragging about earlier, the 29. It's also all the program support for all the activities that go on; for example: the nonprofit, voluntary sector initiative; research and planning, where the community initiatives program is; the other initiatives program as well; and the community facility enhancement program. They're all there, so that's what that is.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Thank you.

On page 22 of the business plan why is spending for community and voluntary support services not projected to grow over the next three years?

Mrs. Klimchuk: Not projected to go up?

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah. Very limited, I think.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Page 22?

Mr. Pedersen: Page 22 of the business plan.

Mrs. Klimchuk: You're looking at the three-year vision, right?

Mr. Pedersen: Correct.

Mrs. Klimchuk: I guess what you're saying is about the targets of \$41,478,000 and \$41,573,000.

Mr. Pedersen: Yeah, just because it's based upon community and voluntary support services, which you've identified as being very important.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Yeah. I think, too, that when we set these targets up, for me, when I look at that, it's kind of one point in time. I suspect that with the way that we fund this department and what I'm advocating for as minister, those are the targets now, but that's not set in stone by any means.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Just curious on that.

On page 18 of the business plan, looking at access to culture through technology, what percentage of the provincial collections are digitalized? What percentage of digitalized collections are available online? What are the goals for the digitalization of collections, and how much money is allocated for this process?

Mrs. Klimchuk: I can tell you that the Alberta Foundation for the Arts collection is 100 per cent online now, so every Albertan has access to that through the AFA, something that's taken a while to digitize, but we are very proud of that. It's also being used as a learning tool in many classrooms across Alberta. We see the collection that we have and just see all the great Alberta talent that we have here. The cost of digitizing that: I would have to get back to you on that. I don't know off the top of my head. I'm thinking of some of the other things we have available in terms of digitizing.

The app that we have, the Alberta Culture Days app, is one where you can go on and it will tell you all the events that happen all around you, which has proven to be a very, very successful social media tool. Those are just a couple of the areas. We can get back to you on the cost of what it costs to digitize, that piece.

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. Okay.

Mrs. Klimchuk: That was something that I'm really happy is done. It took a while, unfortunately.

Mr. Pedersen: I'm just curious: do you know what the current value is of the items that the government has on loan or that have been donated from private citizens?

Mrs. Klimchuk: You're talking about the value of when people give us donations?

Mr. Pedersen: Items, physical items, say artwork or a sculpture.

Mrs. Klimchuk: When the Legislature turned 100 years old, the ATCO Group of companies donated all of their archival material to the archives of Alberta, which is here in Edmonton, a huge, huge donation. At that time it ebbed around a \$15 million donation. Every year it depends on what people donate. For

example, at Government House Foundation we're still trying to retrieve some of the original furniture that was sold off in 1940, when all the furniture was sold off. It kind of ebbs and flows from year to year as to the value of what's donated and what it's worth. It's really hard to predict that.

Mr. Pedersen: Do you know what you're sitting on right now?

Mrs. Klimchuk: We'd have to get back to you on that. I know that within the AFA collection, our collection of that is about \$14 million or \$15 million. We'll get back to you on the amounts. I know that our AFA collection and, of course, some of the other collections are certainly worth a lot of dollars. We can get you that.

Mr. Pedersen: Sure. For anyone considering this in their estate planning, are there any specific tax donation implications involved between the government and the donor in these instances? If so, what is being done to ensure that there are no barriers to charitable giving?

Mrs. Klimchuk: We can certainly get back to you on that part of it. I know that people are sometimes very, very relieved to get rid of some of their items, and they will just give them to us and don't ask, really, for anything. They're just happy that they're going to be looked after in the archives or the museum.

With respect to a tax receipt we could certainly get back to you on that.

Mr. Pedersen: Okay. Are there any technology initiatives that are ongoing and are not discussed in the business plan? If so, what is their cost, and what are the measurables in place to ensure their effectiveness?

Mrs. Klimchuk: One of the things that's not in the business plan is something we just launched last month for Volunteer Week called Volunteerville. It's a website that Volunteer Alberta did, so it would be through my department. It's a chance for volunteers to connect across Alberta and tell their stories and celebrate what they do as volunteers.

With respect to the question about the cost of other ones we can certainly check into that, too.

Mr. Pedersen: With one minute, I will give up the floor.

The Chair: Well, thank you very much. We're finishing early.

At this time I would advise the committee that our time has been used up and that the business has concluded.

I'd like to thank the minister and her staff for meeting with us this evening and for all the great work that you do and the committee and our support staff for all of your time and effort that you put in throughout the review of the main estimates. This is our last meeting.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you for your great questions.

The Chair: Thank you, everyone. This meeting is adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 9:59 p.m.]

