

[Mrs. O'Neill in the chair]

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. The hour is past 8:30, so we will begin in the absence of . . . Excuse me. I don't know whether I can mention . . .

MR. WOLOSHYN: Yes, you can.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN: Can I? The chair is perhaps caught in the same traffic jam that some of us were also caught in. So we will begin.

I would ask for the approval of the agenda. Ms Olsen. Those in favour? Approved.

The minutes from March 1, 2000. Thank you. Moved for acceptance by Mr. Herard. Those in favour? Okay.

The meeting today. I'd like to say welcome to the Hon. Stan Woloshyn, the Minister of Community Development, and your staff, Mr. Minister, and of course to the members from the Auditor General's office. We appreciate your being here as well. I would ask you, Mr. Woloshyn, if perhaps you would introduce your staff and then begin with the presentation.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman. Again I'm pleased to be here, especially since we see you in the chair as opposed to Mr. White, who I have nothing personal against. I was pleased to see that he came late intentionally so you could do the introductions.

Good morning, Mr. White.

MR. WHITE: You may be bigger than I, but I'm quick.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Well, you weren't quick enough this morning. You didn't make it on time.

[Mr. White in the chair]

MR. WOLOSHYN: Anyway, good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for allowing your vice-chairman to fill in. It started my morning off right.

To my immediate right is the deputy minister, Don Ford, whom I'm sure all of you know from his previous assignments in health. Next to him is Rai Batra, our chief financial officer. The left-hand side is the power side. That's Darlene Andruchuk and my EA, Denine Krieger. Also, over there are the Auditor General's people, our very, very good friends, who are going for coffee right after this, deputy Auditor General.

Now that I've set the tone, first of all, as you all know, the reporting time lines for this are from April 1 of '98 to March of '99. I'd like to acknowledge the Hon. Shirley McClellan, who was minister during the time period of this annual report, and her team for all the hard work they put into it. The department focused on working together on key government priorities and the importance of quality of life for all Albertans. Community Development is a streamlined department and continues to set a very good example for others in government, sharing resources and co-ordinating and participating in cross-government initiatives.

What you find in this annual report is that our budgetary responsibilities were met and fiscal targets were achieved. Our business plan and performance measures are aligned with the government's priorities. I think it's important to understand how the performance measures were set out to accurately reflect the department's activities and accomplishments over the past year. I'd like to briefly review this process by each goal and provide some key achievement highlights.

The first goal of the ministry is "to work in partnership with geographic communities and communities of interest to build and maintain a high quality of life in Alberta." One of the measures of this goal was client satisfaction with Community Development assistance provided. Clients in these situations range from community-based organizations, municipalities, to other provincial government departments. Facilitation services or conducting workshops or forums on the client's behalf are two of the services of the department.

During this time period ministry staff worked on cross-government initiatives such as providing facilitation services for several important government summits including the lotteries and gaming summit in April of '98, the justice summit in January of 1999, and the health summit in February of 1999. Performance was measured by distributing evaluation forms to participants where the field services branch provided services. This is a simple yet very effective means to gather feedback and determine success right at the source. I am pleased to say that a 98 percent average satisfaction rating on client exit forms for services performed by the private regional field offices was achieved. Obviously that's above the goal that was set, which happened to be 97 percent.

Here are a few key achievements under this first goal. It contributed to the enhancement of Alberta's quality of life and to economic growth by providing some \$15.3 million in financial assistance to arts and cultural groups. Youth development and active lifestyle projects were two of the types of initiatives promoted through the provision of \$15.3 million in grants from the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation to some 1,023 sport and recreation projects in the province. The department assisted in the development of the successful bid for the World Championships in Athletics to be held in Edmonton in 2001.

To Alberta's public libraries \$13.7 million in financial assistance was provided, and \$1.2 million was committed to an electronic library network to enhance public access to information services. The new community library board grant program was implemented.

Fifty million dollars was distributed to community-based organizations through some 88 community lottery boards. The department hosted the International Association for Volunteer Effort's 1998 conference in Edmonton. The conference, attended by over 2,700 delegates from 92 countries, was the largest volunteer development conference of its type held in the world.

The department's second goal is to ensure that seniors have access to the supports they need to live in a secure and dignified way as independent and contributing members of society. One measure used under this goal is the satisfaction of seniors with information and other services provided. The level of service and quality of information provided about the Alberta seniors' benefit, special-needs assistance for seniors' programs, and other seniors' programs to our clients was critical to the success of the program. Individuals need good information to make decisions. In some cases these can be life-altering decisions.

Clients had direct input to these measures. Some 889 customer satisfaction surveys were conducted by telephone about the seniors' information line, 1,610 surveys were completed by walk-in visitors at our seniors' services centres, and 2,326 surveys were completed about the Programs and Services for Seniors information booklet. Evaluation of the 1998 Programs and Services for Seniors book showed that over 92 percent of the respondents rated the book as good or very good. A client satisfaction survey found 98 percent of seniors and caregivers were satisfied with the service provided at the seniors' services centres, and 91 percent were satisfied with the seniors' information line.

One of the key achievements as of March 1999 was 180,553 seniors receiving benefits from the Alberta seniors' benefit program.

This included 129,840 low-income seniors who received cash benefits and 50,713 who received full or partial Alberta health care or Alberta health insurance premium subsidies.

An updated strategic business plan for Alberta seniors was developed with input and co-operation from key ministries and is now approved and distributed publicly. A governmentwide study of the impact of the aging population is examining the effect of the aging population on provincial government programs and services and will be providing its final report this spring. Assistance was provided to more than 104,000 individuals through the seniors' information line and to approximately 50,000 seniors at regional seniors' services centres. One hundred thousand copies of the 1999 Programs and Services for Seniors books were distributed. Users of these services appreciated the personalized, accurate, and thorough information provided.

The third goal is to reduce discrimination and foster equalities so all Albertans can have the opportunity to participate fully in the social, economic, and cultural life of the province. For this goal the measure was the percentage of Albertans who feel human rights are fairly well protected in Alberta. This was determined by a telephone survey of 800 adult Albertans asking for their perception of how well human rights are protected. It showed that 82 percent of all Albertans believed human rights were fairly well or very well protected in Alberta in 1998 and 1999. The target was 80 percent and is a 4 percent increase from 1997-98.

8:42

Some of our key achievements. Approximately \$1 million in financial assistance was provided to 50 organizations for human rights and citizenship education and development activities. Seven hundred and thirty-one complaint files to the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission were opened. A partnership with the University of Calgary to establish the Cultural Diversity Institute is under way, and \$250,000 was provided by the human rights, citizenship and multiculturalism education fund to support this initiative. The human rights, citizenship and multiculturalism education fund partnered with the Canadian Human Rights Foundation to sponsor a successful international human rights conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations universal declaration of human rights held in November of 1998.

The fourth goal is

to improve the quality of life for Albertans through the preservation . . . and promotion of appreciation for, Alberta's diverse natural, cultural and historical resources.

Provincially owned and respected facilities such as the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump contribute significantly to the historical and cultural resources of our province.

There is also the economic impact of historical resources and facilities operated by our province, which is one of the measures of this goal. The measure indicates the level of economic activity created by the operation of the ministry's 18 historic sites, museums, and interpretive centres. Data for this measure was collected annually by the cultural facilities and historical resources division, with analysis performed by a private-sector consultant and Alberta Economic Development.

In 1998-99 the economic impact of provincial heritage attractions is expected to match that of the most recent 1996-97 analysis. Direct and indirect value-added economic impact was \$54 million, \$13 million of which was tax revenue. The target was \$52 million in direct and indirect total economic impact. The data served to demonstrate that in addition to cultural, social, scientific, and educational benefits, there are significant economic benefits associated with the preservation and development of the province's

natural, historical, and cultural resources.

One of the key achievements of this goal was that progress was made on plans for a replacement facility for the Provincial Archives of Alberta. A user-needs study was completed and a concept plan developed for renewing the Jubilee auditoria. A trust fund which currently sits at approximately \$4 million was established to support this work. The Royal Tyrrell Museum opened a new Burgess Shale gallery assisted by external sponsorships from PanCanadian oil and other partners, and 19 sites were given historical designations and protection under the Historical Resources Act.

The Ministry of Community Development truly touches Alberta's communities, large or small, and it is our challenge to meet Albertans' expectations in our services to them and achieve the accomplishments set out for us. I believe we will continue to be successful and ensure the needs of our diverse clients are met. The most important factor to the current and future success of the ministry is maintaining and building on co-operative partnerships among government departments, community and nonprofit organizations, our own stakeholders in the private sector.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to entertain any questions the committee might have.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Shandro, if you'd like to introduce yourself and Ms Ludwig.

MR. SHANDRO: Hi. I've got on my right Cathy Ludwig, who is responsible for the audits in this ministry, and I'm Nick Shandro, who has the overall responsibility for the audits of the department.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ms Blakeman, if you'd commence. Oops. If you have a moment, Ms Blakeman, we have a change of schedule that will be delivered to your offices during the next week that outlines the breaks as well as the lineup we've had. You'll recall that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona asked to have the Ministry of Learning split into two sections as they were reported in the Auditor General's report. However, the minister has decided that he feels it is one department. It should not be dealt with – the perception that it is two departments would not be the one he wants to put forward. Therefore, he has declined the invitation for the second meeting and wishes to attend just one. I'm at your pleasure if you want further inquiries made, but the inquiry was made.

Now, on with some questions. Ms Blakeman, followed by Mr. Johnson.

MS BLAKEMAN: Thank you very much. It's well known what high value I place on the Department of Community Development. It is quality of life in Alberta. I am pleased to have the minister and his staff appearing before the Public Accounts Committee this morning. We don't get to see you very often. I think this is only the first or perhaps the second time in the four years I've been on this committee. Welcome to the staff that have accompanied you and, again, to the Auditor General's staff. No fun seekers? No fun seekers today?

MR. WOLOSHYN: One.

MS BLAKEMAN: One fun seeker. Okay.

I'm just going to launch right into this, because of course I'm very interested in this department and I'd like to get in as many questions as possible. I'll refer your attention to page 187 of the Community Development report. I'd like to ask the minister to indicate the purpose, please, of the \$200,000 grant approved by Treasury Board to the Western Heritage Centre in this fiscal year. I'd like to know

when the grant was approved. Was it done by Treasury Board minute or Provincial Treasurer's directive?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you do have to refer to others outside the Chamber or gather the information elsewhere, that's permissible. It's just a matter of letting that be known and then forwarding the information through our secretary. It will be disseminated.

This committee does not expect the minister or his staff here to have at their fingertips an answer to every single question.

MR. WOLOSHYN: The answer to your question partially. Whether it was approved by Treasury Board per se or not, quite frankly I don't know, and we'll have to get to that, but it was made quite specifically to ensure that our interests in the centre were in fact protected by its staying open while we were having, if you will, some discussions with them as to their viability.

As you well know, what transpired at the beginning of these discussions was finished a year later, if you will, in that we have taken a very significant partnership role with them. We'll be operating the actual physical facility as such. But whether the approval came direct from Treasury or from within the ministry as such – the authority is there to do that – I'm not sure.

MS BLAKEMAN: Okay. My supplementary then is: could the minister tell us how much money was advanced by the province for maintenance costs on the Western Heritage Centre since the province took over the museum in 1999 and then leased it back to the Western Heritage Centre?

MR. WOLOSHYN: The maintenance on the building comes directly out of the Infrastructure budget, and I would have to seek the information from the Department of Infrastructure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, we assume the answers will come, then, through the secretary as best you can.

MR. WOLOSHYN: As best we can. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, there are some overlaps in these questions, but I'm quite comfortable in answering to give the members a complete picture of what's there. Although this terminated, if you will, a year ago basically in terms of its coverage, I still am comfortable with giving as complete answers as I can with respect to the particular issues that come up.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Johnson, please.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Mr. Minister and staff. I refer you to section 3 on page 119, schedule 6, of the annual report of Community Development. I notice under cultural facilities and historical resources that there is an overexpenditure of \$321,000, made up primarily of an overexpenditure of \$256,000 under 3.0.2, Provincial Museum, and \$177,000 under 3.0.4, historic sites services. I wonder, Mr. Minister, if you could explain why we have those overexpenditures.

8:52

MR. WOLOSHYN: If you're referring to the overexpenditures, is that the one on the historic sites, hon. member?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, that one in particular.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Okay. What happened there was that this came about as a result of deferring collection, building maintenance, and

fiscal restraint problems that were brought up. Basically, the ministry got caught and had to do some work, and hence the overexpenditure. Since that time, as you're well aware, we've been trying to access things such as onetime funding and whatever way to build into our budget to address some of these problems on a more current basis. But that's a direct result of having to play, if you will, catch-up.

The other one, though, was a little bit more interesting: the Provincial Museum overexpenditure. You are aware that the Provincial Museum goes after very, very significant exhibits. For example, there's one coming up next fall that is also on the Internet; it is Jesus Through the Centuries. These don't come cheap, if you will. There was \$197,000 to secure future blockbuster exhibits such as The Mystical Arts of Tibet; Syria: Land of Civilizations; also to hold a native symposium; and \$60,000 of that figure was building maintenance in that there was an upgrade to the telephone system.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

A supplemental question. I noted in your introductory remarks that you talked about the economic impact of the cultural facilities and historical resources. I wonder if you might just go a little further and talk about any marketing you may have initiated to increase awareness of Alberta's historic sites, museums, and interpretive centres.

MR. WOLOSHYN: I would say that there is really ongoing marketing. For example, we don't just stay within Alberta on it. We've got, as you're familiar, the Alberta-Montana heritage partnership as just one example. There is a significant contribution between Alberta and Montana to promote mutual sites, and both ways we've had the booklet – its name escapes me – that we've circulated around to get people going over. There are partnerships being initiated with Saskatchewan and Manitoba through the river basin tourism consortium. We also work with Alberta Economic Development trying to get the tourism promotion, the policies and whatnot, through so that we can tag in there also and not only tag in but help them, if you will, on others.

We also are represented on the Strategic Tourism Marketing Council. That's the organization responsible for marketing the province's new tourism policy and program. We do surveys of visitors and so on, and brochures are being put out. We're continually looking at ways to improve it, and quite frankly, if there is any way we can improve it from individual members, please drop us a note, because we certainly want to make people aware of what we have to offer on our visitations through the province.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Nicol, followed by Mrs. O'Neill.

DR. NICOL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Mr. Minister and your staff. I'd like to welcome you this morning. In your opening remarks you talked about how Community Development gets involved in providing assistance to a number of the government summits and events that go on. I was just wondering: do you provide accounting of the costs of each of those summits as you provide assistance to them? Because a lot of them that are going on are outside your department.

MR. WOLOSHYN: We are a service provider, and obviously, Dr. Nicol, we would keep track as best we can of the costings of time allocated. But don't forget that when you allocate staff, they're already working, if you will, and their participation is asked for. But we would have values attached to it, yes.

DR. NICOL: A supplemental to that, then, is: do you get equivalent time or dollars back in a transfer from the budget?

MR. WOLOSHYN: No. That's one of our roles. You see, the role of Community Development is to facilitate that. Okay? So sure, we'll keep track for our own internal use, but the staff is in place for the most part. That's an expectation of us, whether it be out in the community to do a small one or within the government. That is an overall function we perform.

DR. NICOL: In recording your financial contribution to the government, your financial role in the government, those data should be provided. I guess I'm asking you: can you provide us with those data so that we see in effect how much of your effort goes to support the different departments on the initiatives of these other ministries in the government?

MR. WOLOSHYN: I don't know if we could. We have to be careful that we don't end up double-accounting on this, because it being one of our roles, if you will, in fact to facilitate the sum, it's whatever else you have as well as all the other community activities that go with it. I wouldn't want to indicate that we have a dollar spent within our department and then have the same dollar allocated as a gift to another department. Do you follow what I'm trying to point out here?

In terms of the costing of that particular unit overall, no problem. We would have that through our FTEs and whatnot that are working there. Certainly we have, for example, staff currently out supporting a large contingent of athletes in Whitehorse as we speak. Now, that is a part of their role. We wouldn't just pull that out and say these – although we would have, obviously, some time or whatnot and know what's going on there. We had a very significant supportive role as well as contributions through the foundation to the recent Winter Games in Sherwood Park. We're always all over the place. We do facilitation for community groups. I guess if you were to keep track of all the contributory costs, it would be a bookkeeping nightmare. In terms of the participation with particular summits and whatnot, if we could factor it out, I certainly don't have any problem giving that to you. Quite frankly, to me it's something that will help me blow the horn of the department. It's no sweat.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. O'Neill, followed by Ms Olsen and Ms Kryczka.

MRS. O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Mr. Minister and staff. My question relates to page 119 of your annual report under schedule 6. I feel that the programs your department delivers – whether they be seniors or libraries or community services or human rights or AADAC, I have no problem with the overexpenditures, quite frankly, because I think they're incredibly well managed in the overall picture, and also I think they support programs that you've shown here are very valid. My question, though, is with relation to line 2.1.1 with the program support. There is an overexpenditure of \$74,000. So my first question would be: could you tell me why, where this overexpenditure reached?

MR. WOLOSHYN: Yes. It's quite straightforward actually. Three things contributed to that. One was a onetime expense related to a severance payout. There's an increase in costs due to salary adjustments and an increase in costs due to Workers' Compensation premiums which were paid on behalf of all employees from the program support funds.

MRS. O'NEILL: Thank you. My supplemental is again referencing page 119, at 2.2.4, indicating that the library operating grants were underexpended by \$486,000. Could you please explain that to me?

MR. WOLOSHYN: Yes. We had an increase of \$1.9 million in 1989, and a lot of this was directed toward the libraries becoming members of the regional library system. Basically, the major reason for the underexpenditure is that not all the councils at that point had become members of the regional library system. Therefore, the dollars that we thought would go out didn't go out. Now we're in a position, if you look a year down, where things have shifted, and I'm in the glue for finding more money.

9:02

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Ms Olsen, followed by Ms Kryczka and Ms Blakeman.

MS OLSEN: Thank you. Welcome to the minister's staff and to the Auditor General's staff.

I want to turn your attention to pages 109 to 111 of the Auditor General's report. On those pages the Auditor General recommends that the government facilitate obtaining the legislative amendments required to formalize "an arm's length relationship between Community Development and Health for the seniors' [health insurance] premiums."

He further expressed concerns

with recording the transfer of funds from the Department of Community Development to the Department of Health as though these were health insurance premiums payable by seniors . . . The legislation does not support the government's expressed intent of reporting both these costs of seniors' benefits in Community Development . . .

Where legislation does not require seniors to pay premiums, the two Departments have computed a notional premium amount for each senior . . .

Health records revenue and Community Development records an expense for the part that is determined to be Community Development's notional responsibility. Making this entry inflates revenues and expenses, because under existing legislation there is no premium obligation for these seniors and, therefore, nobody can have any revenue from them . . .

The transfer from Community Development to Health of \$40.1 million in 1998-99, that is based on the lower rates for seniors' premiums,

is misleading and should be eliminated on consolidation. So I'm wondering, Mr. Minister, what steps the ministry has taken to address the concerns from the Auditor General that the transfer of the \$40.1 million in 1998-99 from Community Development to Health for premiums under the seniors' benefit is misleading because it tends to inflate expenses. What have you done to address that?

MR. WOLOSHYN: This is last year's, so you want to know what I'm doing this year. Is that correct?

MS OLSEN: Well, I'm referring to the Auditor General's comments of '98-99. Tell us what you've done to fix that.

MR. WOLOSHYN: We've listened to his good suggestions and fixed it.

MS OLSEN: How?

MR. WOLOSHYN: The way he asked us to. Do you want me to be a little bit more specific?

MS OLSEN: Okay.

MR. WOLOSHYN: In fairness to the member, I will say a little bit

more. We will as the department, because we have the information, determine which seniors would in fact be qualifying for that; you know, below the threshold for the support for health care premiums. We'll pass this information on to Health and Wellness. We will not be booking it in, so in effect what will happen is there'll be a decrease in revenue and an equal decrease in expenditure in the 2000-2001 budget, if you will, and in the '99-2000 to flatten that line, to do exactly what the Auditor General said to do. So we will no longer be showing that as a revenue from one side and an expenditure from the other within it. We followed the Auditor General's recommendations to the T. I believe he gave us two choices: one was a legislative one, and the other was this one. We chose to go with this direction, and I quite frankly think it was a very good recommendation.

MR. SHANDRO: Just to supplement. It's my understanding that what's going to happen is that the notional premium is not going to be booked anymore, and therefore it's not going to be reflected as an expenditure. That's my understanding of the proposed solution to the thing.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Actually, I think the statement that I do want on the record is that this will have zero impact on the seniors. Just so there's a clear understanding. I don't want the question coming up: oh, you're putting in \$50 million less or whatever. This will not impact the seniors in any way, shape, or form.

MS OLSEN: Our concern wasn't that. It was the recording of it.

MR. WOLOSHYN: It was my concern.

MS OLSEN: Okay.

We'll move on to a supplemental in relation to the Alberta seniors' benefit and the comments by the Auditor General to legitimize an arm's-length relationship between Community Development and Health for seniors' premiums. Can you indicate what your department in 1998-99 recommended to Alberta Treasury, if you recommended that an amendment to the Seniors Benefit Act be presented that would provide premium subsidy to eligible seniors with low incomes?

MR. WOLOSHYN: I think we have to put this in perspective. The Auditor General identified the problem in the fiscal year before us. We resolved the problem in the following one. As I indicated to you, the process will give them the numbers, and we will in fact follow the recommendation to be at arm's length, as the deputy Auditor General has indicated. So it's a done deal, if you will.

MS OLSEN: Those are longer arms now?

MR. WOLOSHYN: You bet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

MS KRYCZKA: Hon. minister, I'm very pleased to see Community Development and yourself here today. I, too, feel that Community Development in its various departments serves senior citizens well in a variety of areas and certainly does speak to quality of life in Alberta.

Before I begin my actual question, I just want to make a note that when I look at services to seniors, program 4 in schedule 6, page 119, I'm very pleased to see that the Seniors Advisory Council, at 4.1.5, was the only one that was under budget. I just had to make that small point. We try to spend it all, but you know.

Looking at the same page, at 4.2.1 there is almost \$3.8 million underexpended for Alberta seniors' benefit grants. I guess I'm wondering why this amount was unexpended, especially since we know, for instance, that there's a substantial net migration of seniors to the province and there has been quite consistently in the last two years. Also, how many seniors did benefit from this program? If you have the figures, I'd be curious to know not only the number of seniors but what percentage of seniors receive the Alberta seniors' benefit.

THE CHAIRMAN: There were about five questions there, but continue on.

MS KRYCZKA: Do you want me to repeat it?

THE CHAIRMAN: No. Please don't. The minister has it all.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Just a general statement on the reason why it was underexpended. Obviously when the budget was put forward, it was anticipated there would be either a larger number of seniors or else a higher level paid to them. It's an income-based program, and the information comes from Revenue Canada directly. Consequently, what happened here is that essentially we had, thankfully, overbudgeted, if you will, what we expected to pay out. I might say that this was not any great saving as the number of seniors who qualified didn't materialize as we had anticipated. So again I have to stress that nobody got shortchanged.

A number of seniors would in some form qualify for some level of assistance, whether it be through the premium support or the direct cash payments, in excess of some 180,000, which I do believe makes up about 60 percent of the total senior population. So in some way, shape, or form the seniors' benefit program that particular year reached about 60 percent of the senior population in some small amount.

MS KRYCZKA: My supplemental question. I am looking at line 4.2.3, the special-needs assistance grants. That was overexpended by about 30 percent. Why would that be?

MR. WOLOSHYN: That's one program where I think whoever came up with that program really deserves a lot of accolades, because it has gone a very, very long way in helping seniors who are, if you will, in need. That program, as you know, is based on specific needs, and that's why it's called special needs. The criteria for eligibility is slightly different than the seniors' benefit, although you have to be a seniors' benefit recipient virtually before you can apply. There is a limit of \$5,000 per year per individual. I think the average payout is either \$2,400 or \$2,700, but as the program became more well known, the demand increased.

Quite frankly, the overexpenditure is quite straightforward. There were not higher payments to individuals on the average or anything of that nature, but more individuals, as they became aware of it, accessed the program, and it went over the budget. We've tried to address that in this year's estimates by a significant increase over the previous. Like I say, between the seniors' benefit program and the special needs working in concert, I think each and every senior in this province is looked after quite well.

9:12

THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Blakeman, followed by Mr. Lougheed.

MS BLAKEMAN: Thank you. I'll direct the minister's attention back to page 187, note 5 again. What I am interested in are the terms and conditions of the leaseback agreement between the government and the Western Heritage Centre. Can the minister

confirm that the leaseback agreement allows the society to run the centre for the next three years? That would put us now in year 2 or year 3 of that agreement. Maybe you could confirm that.

MR. WOLOSHYN: In these particular public accounts that isn't even a part of the subject, but again, I'll answer the question that you asked. No; we just entered into the agreement. Anyhow, that's neither here nor there.

In answer to your question, yes, it does allow them. They are the operators. They're going to operate the centre, the programming of the centre, period. There's no question on that. We're responsible for the physical facility, which we own.

MS BLAKEMAN: Right. Let me clarify then. There must have been an agreement made when the government actually took over this centre inside of this fiscal year. What was the agreement, and could we have a copy of it? What are the terms of the agreement that happened?

MR. WOLOSHYN: We did not take the centre over during the fiscal year in question, that we're on today.

MS BLAKEMAN: You had a leaseback agreement.

MR. KLAPSTEIN: Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I understand the point of order. The minister has clarified that he is not prepared to answer questions in this current year. He just said so, so the point of order is sustained.

MR. WOLOSHYN: I apologize, Mr. Chairman. Could I make a clarification?

THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly.

MR. WOLOSHYN: This is obviously an important issue to the member. Within the original agreement, that goes back to '94 or '95, whenever it was, there was a default clause. That, if you will, happened in this current fiscal year. That's where we got involved with it. The new agreement is one that is coming into effect this fiscal year. Because of the default clause triggering our taking over the whole facility, we are now into a slightly different arrangement, whereby they do all the programming. Also, within that particular agreement there is the provision to review and see if they can in fact end up doing whatever comes down the road three years from now.

So the original agreement had the default clause, which was triggered here. We've now entered into a new agreement, which you're referring to. That's during this fiscal year that we're currently in. I'm not trying to evade the answer. I'm just trying to keep them in a chronological context.

MS BLAKEMAN: Right. I think we know what we're talking about here. I'm interested in what happened in this fiscal year, so if you're calling it a default clause and a trigger then, what were the specific agreements? Could we see a copy of the agreement that happened in this fiscal year, the trigger, if you want to call it that? There must have been something done on paper.

MR. WOLOSHYN: What do you want me to give you? Really there was a problem. We had the land leases, and I won't take the time to go into that. The centre was running into difficulties financially for whatever reasons. I must say that they had a good operation there, and part of our original agreement was that the facilities would come to us if they ceased. On this problem we sat down and had

discussions with them, and as minister and with my staff I determined that it would not be a prudent move to let the centre, if you will, not stay open. We chose to protect the government's significant interest, in excess of \$12 million worth of facility there, which we would end up having to look after if they went out of business, if you will. It's a good investment if you look at the value. What we've actually got into it is a very good return capital dollar to dollar, if you will, in terms of a straight business deal for the government.

We made the decision that these people were very sincere, very good operators, but had that been a public facility with the kinds of supports we would have in Head-Smashed-In and whatnot, it would be a very viable operation. We chose to enter into some discussions with them. They have taken on some different kinds of initiatives, which I think will increase their revenue flows. We said: fine, our interest is the building – the physical building and the land it sits on always remained with the Crown – and you folks will do all the programming; you don't get any programming support, period. Hence, when you look at my current estimates, you don't see the line in there that says money to Western Heritage Centre, because there isn't any. However, Infrastructure, whose responsibility is to look after all our facilities, has done it within their budget.

So it's a straight up-front thing. It's a three-year agreement, and quite frankly I'm hopeful that at some point, you know, things may change differently again. It may go back to them for that; I don't know. But right now it's a good operation. We looked at the whole picture, and if they didn't have the liability of the building maintenance and it looked like they could, if you will, make it into an operation that was better than break even, then that's what we're hoping for.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I must add that it's not incumbent upon you to speak of current policy or the current year. The chair is loath to interrupt a minister when he's answering in the current policy year, but it's your prerogative.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you very much. I appreciate your observations. But quite frankly, what I'm attempting to do here is, yes, stay on the accounts previous to my time, but I do know this member has a sincere interest in that. Quite frankly, I don't have any difficulty in saying what we're trying to accomplish. I don't want to in a sense insult you by saying no, I can't talk about it because that's last year and this is this year. I don't have any difficulty in giving you the explanation, because I'm very, very comfortable as minister with what I chose to do with that, and I assume full responsibility for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Full and complete answers are always welcome, but it's your prerogative.

Mr. Lougheed, followed by Ms Olsen.

MR. LOUGHEED: Looking at page 197, you've got the income statement for the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. You've got one area there: the municipal recreation/tourism areas program. Can you identify what the purpose of that program is?

MR. WOLOSHYN: Could you repeat the question again, please?

MR. LOUGHEED: On page 197, the municipal recreation/tourism areas program.

MR. WOLOSHYN: What is that program?

MR. LOUGHEED: Municipal recreation/tourism areas.

MR. WOLOSHTYN: That was generically known as the MRTA grant program. That was implemented some years ago when the government of the day gave out grants to various municipalities, and along with the grants were commitments to provide some operating dollars for a 20-year period. When we went into the restraint mode in 1993-94, these grants were reduced by some 50 percent, and the allocation of the grants became the responsibility of the sports and wildlife foundation through Community Development. Basically what it is: there are some 268 municipal and nonprofit recreation facilities that were funded across the province, and these are operating dollars that are still going in there as per our original agreements. The whole business is that we felt we had an obligation to ensure that at least a 50 percent portion continued until the end of the agreements, which I think have – what? – six years to go. Whatever. We're at year 10 or 12 of some of them.

9:22

MR. LOUGHEED: I didn't hear your last comment.

MR. WOLOSHTYN: We've just got a few more years to go on it. I'm not sure whether it's six or eight years left on the program.

MR. LOUGHEED: Okay.

A second question, but before that, I forgot to mention – I was going to mention at the beginning something that happened recently in the county of Strathcona: the Alberta Winter Games. So many positive comments came back to your department, and it was unfortunate you couldn't be there for the final rally and presentation of the trophies. So many people in the community and leaders of the different organizations and groups were offering many commendations to your department, and I just thought I should mention that and let you know that feeling is out there. I hope you have had that communicated back to you: an excellent job done by your staff from all reports I've heard.

Just following up on this municipal recreation/tourism areas program, there was a pretty big increase in expenditures. I didn't hear you comment on that. It went up about a million dollars or so, a more than doubling of it. Any particular reason there that you can recall or have identified?

MR. WOLOSHTYN: Would you mind if I get one of my staff to answer that? There's some transferring of programs. I'll get the deputy to go over that so I don't give you misinformation.

MR. FORD: In 1997-98 the responsibility for the municipal recreation/tourism program was transferred from the Department of Community Development to the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. A portion of the MRTA grant program was paid from the department's funds, and then after the transfer it was paid for from the foundation funds. So the change reflects the total for the program, which is \$1.5 million, being annualized.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Dr. Nicol, followed by Mr. Herard.

DR. NICOL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, on page 107 of the Auditor General's report, the Auditor General makes reference in this example – I guess it's the friends of the Jubilee auditoria – that you have a lot of facilities that you own on behalf of the province, and they are operated by friends of associations or whatever. The Auditor General makes reference to the fact that these volunteer societies effectively are using ministry resources. I

was wondering, in the context of what the Auditor General is asking there in that section, how you reflect that contribution. It's a matter of a bookkeeping practice for them. Is this recognized as part of your contribution to the community as well, the support you're giving to these volunteer associations? The money that comes from those volunteer associations, had you been operating that facility, would have shown as your revenue, and then the expenditures. So it's effectively not a clear indication of the transaction value you're dealing with in terms of these friends of associations or societies. Are you trying to clarify that in the context of the Auditor General's concerns there?

MR. WOLOSHTYN: I would never do anything but what the Auditor General asked me.

I have to get a bit of a backgrounder. There was a difference of opinion between the Auditor General and Treasury as to how this particular activity was reported. I do believe that when this report was written, Treasury had instructed the department to do what they had done. After this has come out, we have implemented a program, which I believe will be almost 100 percent by this April, as the agreements between these friends societies and ourselves come up, whereby the accounting will be as prescribed by the Auditor General. It will show as revenue format as if it were a part of the department.

So the recommendation as put forward here - I don't like the words he said in there, that it's incomplete till we do it and all that, because it was all done complete. These groups are all audited. It's all clean. It's all aboveboard. And don't forget the revenues. One of the stipulations of the partnerships is that the revenues they take in are put back into the facilities in some way, shape, or form. That's been happening and happening very well all over. However, in view of the fact that the Auditor General's recommendation was that we do a different way of reporting it, we are implementing that as these agreements come due so we don't unduly disrupt these friends organizations. Because, you know, when you change things - the how-come, what-did-we-do-wrong kind of thing. We want to continue having a very good relationship with them.

So the short answer to your question is: we're implementing the Auditor General's recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herard, followed by Ms Olsen.

MR. HERARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am risking covering some ground that's already been covered, because I heard the few words of an earlier response to a question when I was in the other room. So I hope I'm not repeating what's already been covered. It deals with pages 110 and 111, which expresses a need to amend legislation in order to achieve the ends the Auditor General feels should be there with respect to how financial data is presented.

I'm new in this committee, but I've always wondered how the Auditor General, in doing his work, essentially stays out of policymaking with respect to how governments operate. It's just an interest of mine. So I'm going to ask the question of the Auditor General's staff and perhaps the Minister, if he cares to respond.

It seems to me that this case is the closest thing I've seen at this point to a situation where if in fact the suggestion of the Auditor General is taken, then the relationship between the department and its stakeholders, which are seniors, would effectively change. I'm at a loss as to how a ministry can comply with such a thing when in fact the relationship between that ministry and its clients would have to change.

In other words, seniors are used to dealing with seniors' benefits in a particular way. If the suggestions here - if I understand them correctly, then that would change. So you'd have hundreds of

thousands of seniors faced with yet another change that they may have a problem understanding, because all it's there to do is make the numbers look right. I guess the question I have is: when is this line crossed between providing financial advice with respect to how books are kept and crossing that line into actually making suggestions that would force a relationship change, which to me is a policy? So I'd like to hear that, because I'm new at this. I recognize it is sometimes difficult to stay on either side of that line, but I'd like to hear something about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Recognize that the minister answered earlier that the department's decision had been made. It was a matter of reporting, so the accounting decision was taken. That's just a point of information. The question still stands: where is the line?

MR. SHANDRO: Thank you very much. I'd like to clarify our position on this. We are charged with the responsibility of auditing transactions. That responsibility encompasses determining whether the transactions are in accordance with the underlying legislation. Nothing in our recommendation asks for a change in the way the relationship with seniors exists. We took particular care to make sure that that didn't have any impact and that our recommendation wouldn't have any impact on the relationships with seniors.

The simple truth of the matter was that the notional premium wasn't required. There is no such thing as the premium that was being paid over, and in order for that premium to be paid over, there had to be an underlying legislation requiring such a premium. Therefore, we suggested two courses of action: to record it in accordance with the underlying legislation or to change the legislation to do what was intended. So it was a choice there, and the department took the choice they felt was appropriate.

9:32

MR. HERARD: Well, thank you for that.

You know, I think I recognize that you are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the reporting follows the legislation. Maybe it's my understanding of this that's not quite right, but when I see a statement that says, "Require seniors to pay the same premiums under HIP legislation as other Albertans," then I would read into that that's all seniors, and if that's not what they're used to at the moment, then that is a change in the way they do business with the government. That's why I brought the question up, because to me, being new at this particular committee, I sort of see a thin line there that crosses between Auditor's advice and policy advice. Anyway, I just wanted to learn more about how that works.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did you wish further clarification on some particular point?

MR. HERARD: If anyone wants to provide one.

MR. SHANDRO: I'll just comment on your latest observation. The reason we put the comments under point 1 and point 2 on page 111 was to bring an understanding to what might be required to fix it the way it was intended to operate, but it certainly wasn't our intention to say that this is the only way of fixing the problem. When we make our recommendations, we like to take a view of how something might be fixed and to provide some discussion around that area, but certainly the choice of making the decision is that of government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ms Olsen, followed by Mr. Cao.

MS OLSEN: Thank you. I want to turn your attention to the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the AG's report in relation to that. There are some recommendations that certainly have come out of the Auditor General's report. In fact, the Auditor General recommends that "the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation comply with the Income Tax Act (Canada) when issuing official receipts for income tax purposes." The Auditor General has also further expressed concern about the policy of the foundation to issue tax receipts for gifts received from individuals and corporations under the donation fund program. The foundation then makes grants from some of those gift revenues to provincial sport associations, and that's to benefit their own affiliated clubs and athletes designated by the donor under its adopt-athlete program.

It seems kind of odd that since 1988 the foundation has known that some of those gifts for which it issues official receipts for income tax purposes may not qualify as gifts. I'm wondering what the explanation is and what the minister can indicate as an explanation that he's received from the foundation on why it continued to issue official income tax receipts for gifts made to fund children's activities beyond the scope of the Income Tax Act. I guess what I'm asking, Mr. Minister, is: what explanation have you received in relation to this when the foundation had been informed of the problem by its accountants and lawyers many years ago?

MR. WOLOSHTYN: Well, I can't comment on what happened many years ago nor what was in the heads of the foundation people with respect to this. However, I will say that the foundation, at least since my association with and responsibility for it, is fully aware and is totally committed to compliance with the Income Tax Act of Canada. That compliance is critical to the success of our donation fund program. The last thing that the foundation or the ministry wants is negative views or negative publicity, if you will, or some inferences that there has been an intentional violation of the act with respect to it, because certainly credibility to the foundation and to myself is extremely important. We have taken this particular recommendation very, very seriously, and we do appreciate the fact that it has been highlighted by the Auditor General. Quite frankly, I think this is a classic example of the value of having the Auditor General review, if you will, the activities of government. This particular observation was accurate, and although it somewhat gave me a bit of angst, if you will, I very much appreciated the fact that it was identified.

The ministry's internal audit branch now reviews all contributions to the foundations – I'm again speaking currently – to ensure compliance with the Income Tax Act prior to the issuance of receipts by the foundation. So I could say to you now, currently, that whatever's happening there is right on.

To give you an idea of what the impact of this may well be – and I'm not very happy with this, but during the current fiscal year due to the increased level of scrutiny, if you will, some \$60,000 in donations were returned because our people in the department felt that those donations did not comply with the Income Tax Act.

Then we've gone one other step. Part of this concern was who was giving a donation and who might be receiving it. Okay? I won't go into detail there, but we've also gone to the extent that all donors are required to put forward a written declaration that these gifts, if you will, are not anticipated to go to a personal relationship as a benefit to them. So I do believe that we have fully addressed it and will maintain it.

I would like to say: remember that this was not any kind of activity that was intentionally trying to, if you will, fool anybody. In a lot of areas of the Income Tax Act it is, if you will, quite easy to miss a point. Quite frankly, I would say that the other part that we

have to be careful on – although we have made those observations, we are still waiting for Revenue Canada to rule whether in fact these donations in question were in fact not within the act. They may be in the gray area, and we're waiting for the people who administer the act to rule on them. Quite frankly, that was one of the ones that I personally was a little distressed about, but having looked into it, I would say that it was, you know, one of those things that happen, and we're just ensuring that it doesn't continue to happen.

MS OLSEN: Just to follow up on that: \$60,000 seems somewhat significant given that this information has been out in the public. In your monitoring of these donations by your own internal audit branch, are you able to identify how many donations are made in relation to parents transferring tax-free dollars to their children's funds received under the adopt-an-athlete program? How many reciprocal gifts are made? You sponsor my kid, I'll sponsor yours, and we all get a tax receipt and go home very happy. Are you able to identify those types of donations within your own internal auditing process?

9:42

MR. WOLOSHYN: Well, I would suggest to you – I don't know; I'm speculating – that perhaps a significant portion of that \$60,000 would be in reaction to the very statement you made there. I don't know. I haven't asked for the reasons for the rejections, but I would anticipate that was the crux of the problem, as you're fully aware, as identified by the Auditor General.

I think we have to be conscious of the fact that we do appreciate and want donations. At the same time, we want all those donations to comply with, if you will, all of the laws in place, both provincial and federal. The foundation certainly doesn't want to be a vehicle of issuing a tax receipt that isn't legal. I must stress that Revenue Canada still has not ruled on the practice as being improper, and we have chosen now to say: "No. That doesn't happen. We weren't aware of it. It's not happening anymore."

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Cao, followed by Ms Blakeman.

MR. CAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I look at page 42 regarding the preservation of our cultural resources, the measurement of the success ratio of historical resources preservation initiative. In there there's, you say, a 100 percent rate of success. I would like to ask if you can you comment on what this preservation is all about and why it is 100 percent.

MR. WOLOSHYN: I guess the measure is trying to gauge the relative, if you will, effectiveness of our cultural resource management program in – and this is quite significant – protecting and preserving the historical resources that we have, recommending actions such as site avoidance, mitigation, excavation, or historical designation. If you want to look at this whole package, go down to the Rosedale plant. We're into that in just about every avenue, and the department I think is doing just a fantastic job there of ensuring that there aren't any losses, if you will, of our past in it. I guess it's difficult to measure, and what we try to measure is what we protect as balanced against what may have been or what has been lost.

What we did succeed in doing 100 percent is we reached the goal of being totally successful in preserving or protecting all of the newly identified resource sites. I think that's very significant, and I'll go further to say that there weren't any known losses of significant historical resources in the province during this particular fiscal year. Our goal is to maintain a 100 percent success rate in protecting and preserving newly identified historical resources.

To give you an idea just what kind of activity goes on in there, hon. member, in the fiscal year '98-99 there were some 192 archaeological permits issued, resulting in 602 investigations of archaeological sites, and of these some 180 were significant enough to have secondary investigations. There are 10 active archaeological permits going on, and 18 heritage resources and one special places site were designated as provincial or registered historic sites. So that's how we arrived at that kind of a measurement, if you will.

MR. CAO: Okay. Thank you. My first supplementary. On page 43 we're talking about the community-based preservation projects. Could you tell us how it kick-started those projects and how the ministry assists with the proposed projects?

MR. WOLOSHYN: Okay. Again, this is along a similar line. What we look at is working with the community. They're the ones who drive the preservation efforts, if you will. We do provide the professional, technical advice through this particular section of the department to help the communities to undertake the preservation and development of their own historical resources that are very relevant to their own little community.

Again, we look at the significance and the volume of the community-based projects that we happen to help. In 1998-99 there were 489 community-based projects, which was an increase of 24 from the previous year. Our target was, I guess, to hit some 450, in that neighbourhood. We did fund the projects through the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation; well, they had partnering. The heritage partnering organizations, if you will, were the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Museums Alberta, the Archives Society of Alberta, the Historical Society of Alberta, Alberta Genealogical Society, and the Archaeological Society of Alberta. They have all been involved with one or two or three or more, as many as 187 by the Historical Resources Foundation. So that's how that one comes through, hon. member.

MR. CAO: My second supplementary . . .

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, we have but one supplementary in this committee. We have a main question and then a supplementary question. Thank you.

MS BLAKEMAN: I'll refer you to vote 2.2.6, the community lottery boards. This fiscal year, '98-99, was the first year of the community lottery boards program, and I'm sure that the department established outcome measurements and expectations of the program prior to commencing it. I'm wondering: what specifically was done to ensure that the moneys disbursed achieved the stated goals of the program, and what was the result of examining those outcomes? What were the outcome measurements specifically, and what were the results of them?

MR. WOLOSHYN: I will have to take that question under advisement because, quite frankly, I don't know. I don't have very much knowledge of the program largely due to the fact that when the changes came over, it was moved out of this ministry into Gaming and all that went with it.

I would like to comment, however. There were some 88 community lottery boards. The majority of their accountability, if you will, is back to the communities within which they were allocating the funds. They did have some guidelines. We didn't want, if you will, overlapping of contributions. How much monitoring and actual direction was being given to that particular group I think was far less than what it would be for a normal government grant program, because these were set up, if you will, as

a result of the communities and the Gordon report asking for this.

These are all volunteer based. You can remember some of the issues that were raised around administration primarily in the two larger cities. I would be surprised if there was a large departmental audit of it, because the number of grants going out and whatnot would be quite significant.

So I'll look into it to find out and then give you an answer later. At this time I just have to be very frank with you: I don't know.

MS BLAKEMAN: Okay.

MR. WOLOSHYN: One of my officials, who has been around longer than I have, may want to supplement my answer. Go ahead, Rai.

9:52

MR. BATRA: The accountability process is quite rigid. We do conduct audits of the boards, and primarily in the first year we went after larger cities because that's where the maximum amount of money was going in. We have audit reports available. To the best of our knowledge there was nothing that was not in compliance with the guidelines provided to the community lottery boards.

The community lottery boards are completely independent entities. In essence, the minister retains the right to deny a grant at the end because he or she is the minister. There has not been an incident where we have thrown a grant out on approval basis. If it has not complied, we have not given that money.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Well, I guess that would supplement my answers then. I've just been briefed. There has been some auditing going on.

MR. BATRA: Yes. We conduct thorough audits. In fact, we conduct audits for the same program under contract to the Ministry of Gaming now. They have not established any financial and admin function as such and have retained our ministry to do all their work.

MS BLAKEMAN: Okay. I'll leave my original question on *Hansard* there for you, because I was looking for what the criteria were that were used to judge the outcomes and what the result of that was. So I'll leave that on the books for you.

The supplemental follows on what you've just said. The Gordon report did not specifically ask for this program, but it was developed as a solution to what was being suggested in the Gordon report. I think there are issues around accountability there and particularly around whether the boards that were set up did in fact comply with both the letter and the intent of the program as stated. I think there was quite a bit of movement in how some of those boards actually distributed the funds and to whom and under what guidelines.

MR. BATRA: The guidelines were provided in 1990. There is a complete document on it. They are free to make their decisions. The grants do vary from, just for the sake of it – I cannot really vouch for it – a swing in a park to funding a health care machine, for example, in a hospital or senior citizens or just homeless shelters, et cetera, et cetera, like Calgary did. So they're quite independent in what they do. The only thing they cannot do is use the funds for closed services of the municipalities, meaning they cannot use the money in building roads or doing anything else.

MR. WOLOSHYN: With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman. What are you driving at, hon. member?

MS BLAKEMAN: I have an overriding concern. I have met with

staff from the Auditor General's department about the accountability of moneys disbursed by the government through various grant programs – and this is the department that does most of it – in the ability of the department to answer back to the public about where the money went. Where I find a number of discrepancies is between what the intent of any given program was meant to be and how it changes and actually is operated. I think the criteria change, and I'm questioning the auditing of that. That's specific to the questions I just asked you about the community lottery boards.

Also, this is a general statement about assistance and guidance advice to agencies funded under the ministry to help them develop better performance measurements and outcome measurements overall, because this is an area that I think will become increasingly important as the voluntary sector becomes increasingly important. So as a general statement. That's why I ask those kinds of questions.

MR. WOLOSHYN: That's a very good question. I just do apologize that I can't answer it on this specific year.

But just as an extra answer to your comment. Your observations are good, and we're working, for example, with the foundations' business plans and accountability along the same lines as you're doing. So on what happened up till then, we're trying to ensure the accountability factor, because if any organization does get hurt, it's through that particular aspect.

I can't comment on the lottery boards per se, but your general thrust is what we're trying to do within the department currently.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Could I prevail upon the member to be the first up next meeting? With two minutes left we don't really have time for a complete question and answer.

MS KRYCZKA: I'll ask him later.

THE CHAIRMAN: Terrific. Thank you kindly.

We have with us next week the Hon. Dr. West, Minister of Resource Development, and the Hon. Michael Cardinal, Associate Minister of Forestry.

I would like to thank this minister and his staff for full and complete answers and look forward to doing it again in another year or so.

MR. WOLOSHYN: I would like to mention that if any members do have something that they would like further information on, please drop me a line directly. If it's not too onerous on staff to research, I'll be more than glad to provide the answer. If it's an onerous research project, I probably won't.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

MR. WOLOSHYN: Thank you for having us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Might we have a motion for adjournment?

MR. KLAPSTEIN: So moved.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stand adjourned.

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