



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 30th Legislature
Second Session

Standing Committee
on
Public Accounts

Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
8 a.m.

Transcript No. 30-2-16

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Participants

Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women

Melissa Banks, Assistant Deputy Minister, Creative and Community Development

Nilam Jetha, Assistant Deputy Minister, Status of Women and Strategic Integration

Lora Pillipow, Deputy Minister

8 a.m.

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

[Ms Phillips in the chair]

The Chair: All right. I have 8 o'clock, folks. Good morning, and thank you for joining us. It looks like almost everyone is joining us remotely this morning.

My name is Shannon Phillips. I am the chair of this committee and the MLA for Lethbridge-West. Ordinarily I would suggest going around the room to introduce ourselves, but that's going to be a little bit more difficult today. I'm going to read into the record the attendees on the MLA side. If there are any that I am missing because I can't see your name or you're joining by phone, please feel free to say so at this time. I'll go down the list. We have Mr. Devinder Toor, Mr. Drew Barnes, Mr. Garth Rowsell. Joining us today as nonvoting members we have Member Janis Irwin, Member Jasvir Deol. We have, then, member of the committee Marie Renaud. Joining us as a nonvoting member of the committee today is MLA Nicole Goehring. We have Mr. Peter Guthrie, Mr. Richard Gotfried, Mr. Roger Reid. I think that covers it although if there's anyone else, please feel free to say so at this time.

Mr. Stephan: Jason Stephan.

The Chair: Yes, Mr. Jason Stephan. Must be one of the phone numbers. Thank you, Member Stephan.

We also have joining us the Auditor General staff of Doug Wylie. Rob Driesen, the Assistant Auditor General, is on the line as well today. From the Legislative Assembly Office we have Philip Massolin, who is the clerk of committees and research services, and Aaron Roth, who is the clerk of our particular committee here. We have a number of staff joining the deputy minister and a number of assistant deputy ministers on the line today. I will leave it to them as they speak to introduce themselves. Our officials from the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women are Ms Lora Pillipow, the deputy minister, and, as I said, a number of folks. They can just identify themselves as they speak.

A few housekeeping items to address before we turn to the matters at hand this morning. We do advise people to ensure that we have six feet of distance in the room and that people are wearing masks outside of the time they are talking. However, we have found that if people want to leave their masks on while they're speaking, the microphones pick them up just fine, too. I will ask folks to ensure that your mics are muted if you are not speaking, and *Hansard* will operate your mics if you are in the room. Obviously, our committee proceedings are live streamed on the Internet, broadcast on Alberta Assembly TV, and all of those transcripts can be accessed via the Legislative Assembly website.

We'll now move on to the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda, friends?

Seeing none, would a member like to move that the agenda for the December 8 meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be approved as distributed or as amended.

Mr. Dach: Dach.

The Chair: Moved by Member Dach. Is there any discussion on this motion? Seeing none, all in favour? Thank you, friends. That motion is carried.

Moving on to the minutes. We have the minutes in hand from our last meeting. Do members have any errors or omissions in regard to these minutes? If not, would a member move that the minutes of the December 1 meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be approved as distributed.

Mr. Gotfried: So moved.

The Chair: Thank you. Is there any discussion on this motion? All in favour? Thank you. Any opposed? That motion is carried.

I would like to now move on to welcome our guests from the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, who are here to address the office of the Auditor General outstanding recommendations as well as the ministry's annual report from 2019-20.

I just want to look to the clerk to just ensure that I have this correct, that today we are on the usual 15-minute and then, I believe, 10-minute rotation because there is no morning sitting. Is that correct, Mr. Clerk?

Mr. Roth: Yes, I believe so, Chair.

The Chair: Okay. Very good. That does not affect the ministry opening remarks, friends, but it does affect your questioning rotations.

I will now invite the officials to provide opening remarks not exceeding 10 minutes. Thank you.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you, Chair. I'm pleased to be here to present highlights from the 2019 annual report on behalf of hon. Minister Aheer. The work of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women touches all Albertans and the communities they call home. We proudly take on many roles that make life better for Albertans. We ensure Albertans have vibrant active communities and access to cultural opportunities; we support artists, cultural workers, and their social, cultural, and economic contributions to our province; and we work to celebrate diversity and advance gender equality so all Albertans can contribute to the economic and social development of our province.

Our work starts with the nonprofit and volunteer sector, which is the bedrock of communities. These organizations create the kind of communities that attract and retain businesses. Alberta has over 26,000 nonprofit organizations. These organizations accessed more than \$59 million in grant support last year. More than \$21 million of that money came through the community initiatives program, which was provided in support of programs, services, and capacity building for a stronger and more sustainable nonprofit sector, with nearly 500 grant applications approved in 2019-20.

A further \$25 million was provided to assist organizations in the development or upgrade of public-use facilities through the community facility enhancement program. We are also getting grant funding to organizations faster after switching to electronic fund transfers. We funded three infrastructure projects: Telus World of Science aurora project, \$4 million; Vivo for Healthier Generations project, \$5 million; and the Winspear completion project at \$4.3 million. These projects help drive the economy. For example, the Telus World of Science project has created about 340 jobs during construction, and there will be about 50 permanent jobs upon completion. This project is forecast to produce more than \$81 million in economic impact, \$35.5 million in GDP, and more than \$10 million in taxes for all orders of government.

Sharing the stories of Alberta's rich history and heritage is important to Albertans and our economic growth. In June 2019 the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology's new learning lounge, including 1,300 square metres of new visitor experiences and services, was opened. The expansion better accommodates the more than 430,000 annual visitors to the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

The ministry also works with communities across Alberta to protect more than 390 provincial historic resources. In 2019-20 the department awarded over 100 grants and scholarships totalling \$1.7 million to individuals and organizations to preserve or promote

Alberta's heritage. The department also provided funding to five provincial heritage organizations such as the Alberta Museums Association and the Historical Society of Alberta. This funding helps these organizations deliver program services that document, preserve, and present the province's heritage.

Alberta's arts and culture industry sector also plays a pivotal role in telling our story and showcasing Alberta to the world. The ministry supports the arts through many initiatives such as the Month of the Artist, artist in residence program, and Alberta Culture Days. The Alberta Culture Days provided \$220,000 in grant funding to support 424 events across the province, which were attended by over 76,000 people. We also provided \$28.2 million to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, which helps sustain and grow the arts sector.

The ministry continues to invest in Alberta's cultural industries through grants to businesses and individuals to support economic diversification and job creation. This aligns with the government's commitment to grow all cultural industries by 25 per cent, or \$1.5 billion, over the next decade.

The Alberta-made production grant was launched to support the smaller budget film and television productions and grow the industry. The ministry also worked closely with the former ministry of economic development and trade to develop and launch the film and television tax credit in January 2020. In fact, '19-20 was a high profile production year for Alberta's screen-based production community. Notable projects like *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* and Disney's *Togo* and *Jumanji: The Next Level* all came to film in our province.

8:10

Sport and recreation are also part of Alberta's culture. Alberta athletes continue to shine on the national stage, inspiring the next generation of podium hopefuls. From local recreation programming to initiatives like Podium Alberta, Alberta is helping to pursue more healthy, active lifestyles. Additionally, in 2019-20 the minister provided \$12.2 million in operating grants for programs and services to 129 sports, physical activity, and recreation organizations. Approximately 705 Albertans enjoyed organized sport programs through this funding, and more than 271 athletes received Podium Alberta funding, totalling \$750,000 to pursue their goals.

Of course, Airdrie was host to the 2020 Alberta Winter Games, allowing 1,700 Albertans to compete in 19 events. At the games we named Olympic wrestler Erica Wiebe Alberta's first ambassador for sport and active living. As an ambassador and a volunteer with Right To Play, Fast and Female, and KidSport Alberta Ms Wiebe will advocate for Albertans, especially women and girls, being active in sport.

Alberta's strength is in its diversity. For our nonprofit arts, culture and heritage, sport, recreation sectors to thrive, all Albertans must participate in and contribute to all facets of life in our province. Approximately 7,000 francophones are in Alberta. They are business owners and self-employed, and they will play a role in economic recovery. We continue to lead the implementation of Alberta's French policy and multiyear French policy action plan for new and improved services for francophone Albertans. In 2019-20 \$1 million was invested in the development and delivery of services in French, and nearly 200 documents were translated into French. The ministry also hosted many cultural events, live and virtually, such as Diwali, Ramadan, Vaisakhi, Lunar New Year, and Black History Month. These events built intercultural awareness among Albertans and showcased the strength that results from our province's diversity.

Minister Aheer also participated in diversity and inclusion roundtables and launched the multiculturalism, indigenous, and inclusion grant program in December 2019. This grant supports projects that promote cross-cultural understanding, celebrate diverse backgrounds, and help Albertans understand the impacts of discrimination. The ministry also continues to support the work of the Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council. The council is developing recommendations to support the elimination of race-based discrimination and promote intercultural awareness and understanding. We continue to engage with the LGBTQ2S-plus community to identify opportunities to build safe communities.

Supporting women's entrepreneurship and women in STEM is also key to our province's economic growth and recovery. In 2019-20 Minister Aheer attended several events and panel speaking opportunities to encourage women's entrepreneurship and women's participation in STEM fields. Alberta was also the first jurisdiction in Canada to declare November 19, 2019, as Women's Entrepreneurship Day. For women and girls to flourish in STEM and as entrepreneurs, they must be able to live free from all forms of gender-based violence.

We supported the development of the Disclosure to Protect Against Domestic Violence Act. We also supported the development of Protecting Survivors of Human Trafficking Act, and we're supporting efforts for calls for justice on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Minister Aheer is also building awareness about female genital mutilation. She hosted a film, *In the Name of Your Daughter*, during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. As well, she declared February 6, 2020, as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation in Alberta.

I want to conclude with a brief update on the November 2020 Auditor General's report. The ministry has worked closely with the Auditor General to improve controls over the administration and incentives to support the screen-based sector. I'm pleased to advise you that the OAG has confirmed that we have implemented this recommendation, with nothing else outstanding.

Most Albertans probably do not realize that their lives have been impacted in some way by our ministry. Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women takes great pride in its many roles to enhance the quality of life for Albertans and connect them to each other and their communities. Albertans need strong nonprofits, enthusiastic volunteers, sport and recreation opportunities to create and experience art and culture in Alberta. They want to explore Alberta's many hidden historical gems and world-class museums. They want to understand and connect with Alberta's many cultures and diverse communities.

Women, girls, and people of all gender identities want to break through barriers and glass ceilings to reach their full potential. The ministry is dedicated to all these activities, helping to bring and build a vibrant and dynamic Alberta and an Alberta that embraces its proud past while looking towards an even brighter future.

The Chair: Thank you, Deputy.

We will now move over to the Auditor General for five minutes of remarks. Mr. Wylie and Mr. Driesen have both joined us on the line this morning. You have five minutes when you begin speaking.

Thank you.

Mr. Wylie: Well, good morning, Chair and committee members. It's great to be with you this morning. Yes, I'm just going to confirm what the deputy said. I'll open with that. We followed up on a recommendation we made in 2017, and we are also pleased to report that on pages 59 and 60 of our November report we indicate that that recommendation is implemented. That was a

recommendation we made relating to the administration of the production [inaudible]. We have no new recommendations and no outstanding recommendations relating to this ministry, Chair and committee members.

I'd also just like to highlight a couple of other pieces of work that we did at the ministry. We audited four organizations that comprise the ministry as well and issued audit opinions on each one of their financial reports, and those are the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Alberta Sport Connection, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, and the historical resources fund. As part of our work at the ministry we issued an audit opinion on that financial reporting. We're pleased to report that there were no matters arising from those audits.

Chair, I will turn it back to you. Thank you.

Mr. Roth: Excuse me, Chair.

The Chair: Yes. Sorry; I'm having a hard time unmuting myself.

We'll now begin with our rotations. We begin with a 15-minute rotation with the Official Opposition side and then move on to the government side.

Official Opposition, you have 15 minutes when you begin speaking. I believe it is Member Deol to begin.

Mr. Roth: Excuse me, Chair. Pardon me. Could I just request that the ministry officials please initialize their video when they're speaking?

Thank you.

The Chair: Yeah. That's great.

Just hang on again, Mr. Clerk.

Mr. Deol, if you can unmute yourself, and you can initialize your video if you like. I notice that you have now muted yourself, so you can unmute, and you can also just press the little camera icon if you wish to initialize your video, and the ministry officials will do the same. All right. Your time begins when you begin speaking and you unmute.

Thanks.

You need to unmute. There you go.

Mr. Deol: Here's to technology. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again thank you to the ministry and the Auditor General for those opening comments. I would like to focus on the antiracism work of the ministry according to outcome 3.3 of the annual report. You lead the government's response to violence against indigenous women. You are the advocate here within government, so I want to ask, first: what did you do when the Premier brought onboard his racist speech writer, Paul Bunner? Did you advocate to Executive Council that he be removed? What did you do as the advocate in line with key outcome 3.3?

Mr. Gotfried: Point of order, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Yes. Please go ahead.

Mr. Gotfried: Madam Chair, we are supposed to be focusing on the annual report and the Auditor General's report here. I fail to understand how this is relevant to the reports that are in scope of the meeting today.

Thank you.

The Chair: Sure.

I'm looking to the Official Opposition. Is there a response?

8:20

Mr. Schmidt: Madam Chair, it's not really a surprise to me that, of course, Mr. Gotfried doesn't understand what's going on here, but of course Mr. Deol had made several references . . .

Mr. Gotfried: Excuse me, Madam Chair. That's a point of order there. Excuse me, but he's . . .

The Chair: Yes. I . . .

Mr. Gotfried: It's 23(h), (i), and (j). Let's, please, not go there this early in the morning. Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, Member Gotfried.

Member Schmidt, I will just ask you to speak to the point of order, please, without the editorializing. Thank you.

Mr. Schmidt: Yes. As I was saying, Madam Chair, outcome 3.3 clearly discusses that this ministry is the lead and support when it comes to addressing all forms of gender-based violence and violence against indigenous women and girls, and I think that these questions around, you know, attitudes in government, including the Premier's office, may have touched on the responsibility of the ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. It's clearly outlined, as I said, in outcome 3.3, and I think it would only be fair to allow the deputy minister to answer the question.

The Chair: All right. Well, I think what I'm going to remind the Official Opposition here is to begin their comments with reference to the specific outcomes, and I'll also remind the Official Opposition that what we are here to query at Public Accounts is how money is spent and how it relates to the outcomes. Okay. That is the line that must be drawn between premise A and premise B. This is not a time for members' statements or other, you know, more, I guess, rhetorical flourishes. Now is the time for establishing the relationship between the government actions, the outcomes as stated in the annual report, and how money was spent.

I'm going to allow the member to continue, with those caveats, and if we see more of that, then we will reorient the line of questioning. Is that understood?

Mr. Deol: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair, once again. You know, I put up this question, actually, directly in relation to key outcome 3.3 in the annual report. Once again I will ask. It has been in the news that Chris Champion, who is advising on the curriculum, has called . . .

Mr. Gotfried: Madam Chair, point of order again.

The Chair: Okay.

Mr. Gotfried: The scope of this meeting here – and we have ministry officials who are giving us their valuable time today. Let's please respect the fact that we're here to address their execution of policy, not to talk about policy or politics, please.

The Chair: Okay. Well, there is a very clear connection between money spent and stated indications, key performance indicators, and outcomes. That is actually the point of this meeting, so I'm going to let the deputy answer that question, and I'm going to encourage the member to make sure that his interventions and his questioning relate to funds expended by the government of Alberta in relation to stated intentions and goals and outcomes, okay?

I'll let the deputy proceed, please.

Ms Pillipow: I'm sorry, Chair. Can I ask the member to please repeat the question? I'm unclear which one I'm answering.

The Chair: Okay. I think, Member, let's just go to the first question if we might.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Sure. My question directly related to outcome 3.3 as the ministry is the advocate here within the government and to the antiracism framework. My questions were all, like, what the ministry is doing, actually. When we're looking at the annual report, there's not much to learn. The other thing I had referenced was: what was the ministry's response, how the ministry was guiding based on some of the incidents that the government members do not like to mention, the hiring of the few individuals, so how the ministry is actually, you know, effectively in outcome 3.3 advocating their work?

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you very much, Chair, for the question. One of the key things that we report on under 3.3 is the importance of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. It's one of the key things that the ministry does in response to that particular outcome.

In addition, the things that the ministry does – Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women is a centre of excellence for gender diversity analysis in the government. It's our role to provide advice and support to crossministry partners and key stakeholders. That includes on matters related to antiracism. It includes on matters related to, I think, what the Member for Edmonton-Meadows brought up, to include social justice for indigenous women and girls.

Part of the things that we did during the 16 days of activism was to have a campaign, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, acknowledging the travesties under female genital mutilation and cutting by having a panel and a discussion on the film *In the Name of Your Daughter*. We had over 127 people attend. These types of events really inform discourse and inform policy and help us with our diversity and gender-based analysis lens. We also supported a vigil to commemorate the deaths of 14 women at Montreal's l'école Polytechnique on December 6, which was cohosted by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

If I understand correctly, as well the member was also asking a question related to the Anti-Racism Advisory Council. I think it would be clear the importance of the Anti-Racism Advisory Council to the Premier and the minister as the Premier attended the first meeting on February 13, 2020, supporting the council's work, and Minister Aheer also attended the meeting, supporting and reinforcing the council's work.

Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Thank you once again. What I hear is that the advisory council just met only once. What are the resources provided to the Anti-Racism Advisory Council so far? Looking at the report, it does not provide any information. I would be happy to learn what resources have been provided to the Anti-Racism Advisory Council, what have they been proposing so far to the government, and what has the government actually implemented in those lines?

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you very much for the question, Chair. Just to confirm, I'm addressing the question as it ends the fiscal year 2019. I can speak to any activities that occurred between the antiracism council and the ministry in that fiscal year.

As I mentioned, it was quite exciting to have both the Premier and the minister attend the first meeting of the Anti-Racism

Advisory Council on February 13. One of the things that was really important about that meeting was for the minister and the Premier to hear the four priority areas that had been previously established by the council. The council is working on four recommendations, which I'm really happy to go over. Then I'm happy to provide you an overview of the amount of money that was spent in support of that meeting.

The four priority areas. The first is a government that reflects Alberta. The second is preventing and responding to hate crimes and hate incidents. The third is teaching respect for each other, and the fourth is valuing skills and experience in the workplace. The council will be developing recommendations in the next fiscal year, and I anticipate that those particular recommendations would go to the minister.

As part of the responsibility of supporting the council, there is a secretariat within the ministry that is dedicated to supporting their work, establishing their agendas, setting up their meeting, and also providing honoraria for the meeting. I just wanted to make sure – if my staff can give me the amount of money that was provided for the honoraria. I believe it was just over \$16,000. The February 2020 meeting cost was \$6,506.48 just for the meeting itself. In addition, a total of \$7,386.48 was spent on all the council-member-related honoraria and travel expenses.

We would reiterate that the government and the council will be working together to create strategies to eliminate discrimination and inspire Albertans to see the value in diversity. That would be what I would talk about at this time, Member. I'm also really happy to talk about additional grants that were provided by the ministry in support of antiracism if the member would like.

Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Still on the antiracism work, I just wanted to mention that the chair of the antiracism council expressed alarm at some of the Premier's comments with respect to intersectionality and how Indians burn cow dung. She said, "As a woman, as a Black woman, it was . . . more hurtful & offensive dog whistle racism from my government." How does the ministry go about supporting the chair of the Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council when they see racist behaviour? Does the ministry approach change when the chair is calling out racist behaviour that is coming from the Premier versus racism in the government as a whole? Are there two standards or one?

8:30

Mr. Stephan: Point of order.

The Chair: Yes. Please proceed.

Mr. Stephan: This is a personal attack on the Premier. It's not in the annual report. It's not in the period relating to the annual report.

The Chair: Right. I believe the – well, actually, go ahead. I'll let the Official Opposition respond.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, Madam Chair, it's our opinion, of course, that this goes directly to the work of the antiracism council and specifically the chair. The chair of the antiracism council is on record during the period of time that is under consideration here, of the annual report, of making this statement. I think it's only fair for us to ask the question as to what the ministry does to support the antiracism council chair when she's faced with this kind of hostility and circumstances. We're interested to see what kind of supports the ministry provides so that the chair and the people on the antiracism council can do their work.

The Chair: Yeah. I don't find a point of order here. If it's within the time period that we're talking about and specifically references activities, positions, both stated outcomes but also appointments of the ministry, I will allow it. Just a reminder to the member that we are to bring things back to the expenditure amounts and the outcomes as articulated in the annual report, but I will allow their deputy to proceed with answering that.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you, Chair. If I am to recall the question, specifically you're referring to a statement that was publicly made by the co-chair. Are you referring to a specific co-chair, just to clarify?

Mr. Deol: Just that has been public. It has been tweeted on the social media. I can just follow up with a question by saying: did the minister reach out to the chair of Alberta antiracism council in regard to the tweet to get her perspective on the Premier's . . .

Mr. Gottfried: Madam Chair, point of order. Are we actually addressing tweets here today, or are we addressing the annual report of the ministry? I'd like to know if this is a social media source here or whether we're actually addressing the issues at hand, the documents at hand, which are in the scope of the meeting today.

The Chair: I'll recognize the Official Opposition.

Mr. Schmidt: Madam Chair, I think you've already ruled on this matter. It's just that the deputy chair wants to relitigate this issue. It wasn't a point of order before. I don't think it's a point of order now.

The Chair: Thank you.

Now, I think it's quite clear that public statements are public statements in 2020. Leaving that piece aside, it is within the time period. Having said that, I am going to urge the opposition to bring their line of questioning back to outcomes and not simply read public statements into the record. I'm going to urge that. I'm going to invite the deputy to respond to that question and encourage the Official Opposition to frame their questions with more specific reference to annual report outcomes and stated performance indicators.

Ms Pillipow: What I will articulate is that the role of the ministry in supporting the Anti-Racism Advisory Council is to support in the development of the terms of reference, the agenda, the meetings. It is our role to provide honoraria and travel expenses for the council members to attend meetings. We support the council as a result of what comes out of the meeting – I've already reiterated that they had a meeting in February 2020 – and we also provide any information and background briefings for the council on their four priority areas: a government that reflects Alberta, preventing and responding to hate crimes, teaching and respecting each other, and valuing skills and experience for the workplace.

Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Thank you once again. Yeah. My questions basically directly involve the antiracism work of the ministry when we were discussing the role of the antiracism council. Specifically, those comments were coming directly from the chair of the antiracism council. That's why they're concerning, because they're directly impacting the outcome of the framework of the antiracism council of Alberta.

Once again I would like to ask about the ministry's response to the pandemic and the work of the government's central pandemic response planning team. We have seen a rise in Alberta, across

Canada, and in the United States of white supremacist behaviour. The growth in this behaviour has been tied by many to the pandemic and the new social environment. Given the role of your ministry in outcome 3.3, what advice and strategies did you recommend to the pandemic response planning team to counteract the rise of white supremacy in Alberta?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. As soon as the COVID pandemic forced the closure of public gathering spaces, one of the first things that Minister Aheer did: she spent the last two weeks of March calling every individual from the multicultural and faith-based communities to find out how they were doing, what their needs were, and how it was impacting their communities.

One of the key things that we heard during those calls was the need for translation of key materials, so the minister used her calls as an opportunity to provide information on the pandemic as well, and then such documents were translated through our efforts in supporting communications and public engagement. I'll go over – materials were translated into French, Arabic, traditional and simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish, Korean, Urdu. It was really important that these materials covered such things as messages on mass gathering restrictions, panic buying and hoarding, protecting families and economy, access to justice services, continuing on student learning, what it means to be in a state of emergency, additional financial supports for Albertans, emergency isolation support, government service changes, enforcing measures to stop the spread, and increasing security for Alberta renters.

The minister shared the information that she heard from community groups and best practices with the pandemic planning teams, which we did through the ministry as well as with other community groups. The messages continue to be displayed through social media. The initial contact with these stakeholders also led with the development of a more formalized engagement plan throughout the pandemic and several town halls.

Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Thank you once again. As you know, I also represent one of the ethnically diverse ridings in the province and my critic portfolio. A request from a number of communities to get Dr. Deena Hinshaw's statements, the information, at least, translated into different languages: unfortunately, that could not happen. Thank you once again.

My next question is: notwithstanding the planning team's response, what is the ministry doing to combat the rise in white supremacy in Alberta? What is the strategy? In your view, is it working, and how are you measuring it if it is working? In alignment with outcome 3.3 once again.

Ms Pillipow: I'm sorry. Is there a specific section in the annual report under 3.1 that you're referring to, Member, just so I'm clear?

Mr. Deol: Outcome 3.3 is specifically directed at the antiracism work of the Alberta government. That question is referring to that outcome.

8:40

Ms Pillipow: Okay. My understanding of 3.3 is that we're leading and supporting crossministry and community initiatives that support all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, family violence, and violence against indigenous women and girls and the LGBTQ2S-plus community.

For our efforts in supporting and combatting racism, I think I would refer back to the commitment of the government in supporting the Alberta Anti-Racism Advisory Council, which met

in the last fiscal year in February 2020, and the Premier and the minister's continual support of the committee's work to go forward on the following four recommendations, and one of those recommendations relates to preventing and responding to hate crimes and hate instances as well as making sure that we are looking at options that have a government that reflects Alberta, teaching respect for each other, and valuing skills and experience in the workplace.

Thank you.

Mr. Deol: Thank you once again. My question was actually around what strategies basically we have, and what are the matrixes specifically. Like, what are the measurements, how are we measuring our work in alignment with outcome 3.3?

Ms Pillipow: So you'd like to know about the performance measures related to outcome 3.3?

Mr. Deol: Yes.

Ms Pillipow: Yeah. Sure. I can talk about the performance measures. Just so I'm clear, the measurement as it relates to white supremacy or just outcome 3.3?

Mr. Deol: White supremacy.

The Chair: All right. That concludes the first 15-minute round on the Official Opposition side. We will now move to the government side.

Just as a reminder to the ministry officials, if they could initialize their video as well. I think they are doing it. I'm not seeing it, but perhaps people are seeing it in the room. I'm a little unsure about how that is working with the technology.

We will now go to the government side, please. The time is yours when you start speaking. Thank you.

Mr. Guthrie: Yeah. Thank you. Good morning. MLA Pete Guthrie here. I guess I'll continue on the Anti-Racism Advisory Council line of questioning. Pardon me if some of this you may have addressed. There was, I think, a bit of confusion there going on in the past. I'll try to bring it back together here and go to page 24 of the report, where the Alberta racism advisory council is talked about and tasked with addressing racial and multicultural barriers that are in Alberta. Can you just, you know, go a bit deeper into how this council is planning on conducting this work?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you, Chair, for the question. Just for clarity and consistency I can address the question as it relates to the last fiscal year, ending March 31, 2019. I can talk about the work that occurred at the February 2020 council meeting, where I indicated that the minister and Premier met and agreed on four priority areas to address the challenges that are faced by diverse Albertans.

As part of the agreement of those four priority areas – I'll repeat: the government that reflects Alberta, preventing and responding to hate crimes and hate instances, teaching respect for each other, and valuing skills and experience in the workplace – the council is working to complete recommendations for the ministry on those four areas to ensure that all people and communities are valued for their contributions and that all Albertans are able to participate fully in this economic and social flourishing of their communities. Since they had the first meeting in that fiscal year, the council will be working continually through working groups on responding to those four areas and considering taking additional measures for reducing barriers for racialized people and also providing options

for supporting full economic and social participation for multicultural communities in Alberta.

Thank you.

Mr. Guthrie: Thanks.

The report states, "The council seeks to ensure that all Albertans fully participate in the economic and social fabric of their communities and are valued for their contributions." How do you achieve this? What steps have been taken already by the council, and can you elaborate on at least the plan that's been devised on a go-forward basis?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much, Chair, for the question. I think part of the reason that it was important for the council to have a commitment on the four priority areas was to also ensure that they were focusing their work around supporting initiatives that raise awareness and understanding of racism and the impacts on Albertans.

We would anticipate that the program outcomes will also be looking at addressing causes and consequences of racism in communities across Alberta, looking at an outcome that would increase an organization's capacity for individuals who are impacted by racism, increasing access to services, information, and advice concerning racism, increased opportunities for people to learn, discuss, and address the impacts of racism in their community, encouraging participation of individuals, businesses, institutions, and governments to collaboratively support antiracism in their community, and increasing an organization's ability, as well, to address the systemic causes and consequences of racism. Additionally, the ministry will also be looking at what types of programs could support efforts for antiracism through the recommendations that come from the council.

Thank you.

Mr. Guthrie: Okay. Earlier you had mentioned grants but didn't get an opportunity to go into it. Maybe we can move there next. Page 15 of the annual report mentions that there was a consolidation of the status of women and antiracism community grant programs. Can you just, I guess, first explain the reason behind that consolidation?

Ms Pillipow: Sure. Thank you very much for the question, Chair. One of the things that we were looking at through Budget 2019 was the efficiency of delivering grant programs and getting them to as many people as possible and reducing red tape. Consolidating the grant programs through the former antiracism grants and status of women grant programs allowed us to run all the programs more efficiently and effectively as part of that commitment to reduce red tape. We continue to support both of those initiatives through the community initiatives program for community-based initiatives addressing gender-based violence and women's economic security and women in leadership.

Now, I think there were two parts to your question. Did you have another one?

Mr. Guthrie: Well, that took care of it.

Ms Pillipow: Okay.

Mr. Guthrie: To move on I guess a little bit more, then, with what you were just saying there, the report had stated that grant funding is available to include a wider mandate of multiculturalism and inclusion initiatives. I guess maybe if you can, you know, go into that a little bit more.

Ms Pillipow: Yeah. Happy to. One of the things that we did – thank you very much, Chair – is to continue through the consolidation of those grant programs to support community-based antiracism initiatives which will improve conditions and outcomes for women and girls. Grant funding is also now available to a broader mandate to include the multiculturalism and inclusion initiatives through the multiculturalism indigenous and inclusion grant, which is broader than the original antiracism grant.

The status of women grants were consolidated as well into the community initiatives program base funding stream so that programs are run more efficiently, as I mentioned before. Part of that was focusing on projects that focus on women's economic security, gender-based violence, and supporting women and girls in leadership and democratic participation or events. Also, many of the organizations in these areas share common objectives, and we encourage them to work together to find efficiencies in both delivering their services either together or putting in collaborative applications.

I just wanted to mention a couple examples through the CIP that supported antiracism work. As an example, there was a project called building cross intercultural awareness in key community and service provider organizations that was funded for \$10,000. There was another project that was funded: Canada's racialized history from indigenous perspectives, understanding the colonial racial context to inform antiracist solutions in today's challenges. That was funded at just over \$13,000. I bring those examples up – just one last one: indigenous LGBTQS-plus community supports, which was funded at just over \$20,000 – as a way of describing how the consolidation of those programs under CIP was serving a broad base of organizations.

8:50

Mr. Guthrie: Excellent. Thank you.

Just to move over to the Alberta-made production grant, on page 12 here of the annual report, it has information on the newly launched Alberta-made production grant, and it states that the purpose of this grant is to assist “producers to develop Alberta content and assists in attracting and maintaining skilled industry labour,” continuing “towards the ministry's goal of growing Alberta's cultural industries.” I guess the first question would be: the annual report had stated that there were 13 projects that were approved, at least on the initial take. I'm just curious: how many total were submitted? Like, what kind of interest was there in this?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. There were 28 projects submitted through that application intake, and 13 projects were selected to receive funding. One project has since withdrawn since the approval was granted.

Mr. Guthrie: How do you evaluate these applications as they're coming in? How do you rank them, and what sort of criteria do you use for that?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. One of the great things about having the Auditor General recommendation about improved controls: it also helped us develop this program. We have evaluation criteria, where we look at all eligible applications, that are awarded based on points, and I'll just go over the criteria. First, it has to articulate what the total Alberta spend would be. What is the project spend cost in the province of Alberta? What are the jobs created in Alberta based on that Alberta spend? What's the returning production bonus? So what happens when there are any offshoots that come from that production back into Alberta? What's the ownership of the application corporation? So we want to know:

are there any particular diversity, indigenous, or inclusion considerations when we're evaluating the application?

We want to know the percentage of Alberta film days. As well, we want to know the percentage of film days outside of Edmonton or Calgary so that we can understand how they're supporting rural Alberta productions; the percentage of postproduction that's completed in Alberta, again supporting Alberta postproduction businesses in support of growing our cultural industries by 25 per cent; additionally, looking at the licence agreement distribution and the financial contribution as well as the private third-party investment in production; and understanding if there are any other government funders.

Thank you for the question, Chair.

Mr. Guthrie: I guess, finally, on this particular subject: what's the feedback from industry been like for this program?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. One of the first pieces of feedback that we had about the program was that it was both a pro and a con. On the pro side we were supporting smaller productions, and I think there was some initial comment that perhaps maybe the budget was not necessarily sufficient. We did, however, have great results in the productions that we were able to support.

I'm just looking to my assistant deputy minister who's responsible for cultural industries. Do you have anything that you would like to add, Melissa Banks, to that?

Ms Banks: I would say that as a result of the programming, we still were able to attract quite a bit of interest in our film industry. Some of the more higher profiled films that were filmed within Alberta in that year produced a total of 900 jobs, and that accounted for both direct and indirect employment. Some of the larger productions that were obtained were *Heartland*, season 12; *Van Helsing*, season 3; *Dark Cargo*; and *Black Summer*. As Lora had indicated earlier, also filmed in Alberta in the period were *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*; *Lost in Space*, season 2; *Jumanji: The Next Level*; and *Wynonna Earp*, season 3.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Just to be clear, those larger productions weren't funded from the Alberta-made production grant, though; they would have been funded from the larger screen-based production grant and through JEI.

Ms Banks: That's correct. Sorry; I misunderstood.

Ms Pillipow: Yeah. Thank you for the question, Chair.

Mr. Guthrie: Yeah. Excellent. I mean, there's a lot of interest here for Alberta productions, so I wish you all the best with that going forward. Albertans could sure use it.

On page 13, just to change it up here a bit and go to the report advocating for amendments to the federal Copyright Act, that is requiring a 5 per cent royalty to visual artists on the resale of their work. I was just curious if you could update us on any progress that's going on there.

Ms Pillipow: Sure. Thank you very much for the question, Chair. Minister Aheer had taken the opportunity to participate in the provincial-territorial ministers responsible for culture and heritage to advocate for Alberta's position in supporting copyright. She did so by attending that meeting in June 2019. What was great about attending that meeting is that the provincial-territorial ministers agreed to a common statement of objectives related to copyright and the cultural sector to put forward a position collectively as a PT

table to federal government. Minister Aheer and the ministers across the country continue to advocate for a bilateral engagement with the federal government and on the particular arrangement around the federal Copyright Act amendments and putting forward this item to be on a pending Minister of Canadian Heritage and culture meeting going forward.

Thank you for the question.

Mr. Guthrie: Yeah, thanks. Just to finish up on that, then: what was the driving force behind that, and then what is this going to do for Alberta artists? Can you quantify that?

Ms Pillipow: Yes, absolutely. Thank you for the question. Amending the federal Copyright Act would require payments of 5 per cent royalty to visual artists on the resale of work, and their work would have to be measured in a tangible way to ensure that visual artists receive fair compensation and continue to produce their works in an economically sustainable way. Currently artists remain significantly underpaid for their level of experience and education, and an artist's resale right would be particularly beneficial to visual artists who experience this more than other sectors, including women artists.

The Chair: Thank you, Deputy.

We will now move on to the Official Opposition side for a 10-minute rotation. I am just looking to the Official Opposition. Your time begins when you begin speaking.

Ms Goehring: Good morning, Madam Chair, if I could proceed.

The Chair: Yes, please.

Ms Goehring: Thank you. I just want to thank the officials that are here today and just let you know that I know that we have a very short time to get through this, so at points I might interrupt. Please don't consider this rude. I just want to give you the heads-up that at some point I might feel that the questions have been answered, and I might ask for a further follow-up in writing.

If I could just start, with my opening questions I'd like to focus on the pandemic and the early response of the ministry to the government's overall economic planning efforts. We know that on March 17 the government decided to put the province into lockdown. On page 17 of your annual report it's noted that in just 14 days there were more than 100 cancelled events. We know that they were exhibits, festivals, so on. My first question is: what is the ministry doing to actively support our cultural industries and the tens of thousands of people who are now, unfortunately, unemployed as a result of the pandemic?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. This is related to page 17 on the commitment for the AFA, correct? Just to clarify, Chair.

Ms Goehring: Correct.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you. As you know, the AFA is accountable to the minister. As a practice for most of the funding agencies across the board, the minister receives the advice – the decisions are made by the board. One of the decisions that was made by the board in March 2020 was that they provided operating funding to eligible organizations to support ongoing operations. As well, one of the commitments that they made was to not have stand-alone events. If they were cancelled as a result of COVID, they still receive their operating funding. Their operating funding is not project specific or event specific; it's intended to support the expenses of the organization itself. For example, like, Edmonton

Folk Fest, they would receive funding for administration, programming, salaries and fees, as well as maintenance of equipment.

One of the other things that they also did, as the vast majority of AFA operating clients were impacted by the cancellation, was work with them to help provide an online tool kit for artists and artist organizations to help them pivot their business. If they . . .

9:00

Ms Goehring: Thank you.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you.

Ms Goehring: According to page 12 of the annual report this new UCP government has set a goal of growing Alberta's creative and cultural industries by \$1.5 billion, or 25 per cent. I mean, this was an incredibly ambitious target, and with the advent of the pandemic I'd like to know more about what's going on in the industry relative to where you were at March 31. Is growing the industry by 25 per cent still your goal? If so, what are you doing to achieve that?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the questions, Chair. Specifically to your question on what the ministry is doing to support the government's goal as it relates to the annual report commitments, growing the industry by 25 per cent over 10 years, one of the things I want to talk about is the importance of the commitment through the government's funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, where in 2019-20 they funded \$28.2 million, as well as the commitment to fund various cultural industry organizations.

I'll just go over a few of the grants that were provided in 2019-20, which I think were really important in continuing to advance this particular goal. The cultural industries organization operating grant is a really important grant that helps to cover operating expenses for organizations that publish books, magazines, and sound recordings. In 2019-20 there was just over \$1 million provided to 34 organizations. An additional \$753,000 in operating was provided to publishing and music sectors. Sorry, I misspoke. The budget line for that particular grant was just over \$1 million.

It's really important to also talk about some of the cultural industry support organization grants that were given to support some of the big industries that really help our sector, so we look at the Alberta Music Industry Association, the book publishers association, the Alberta Media Production Industries Association, and the Alberta magazine publishers. They received just over \$372,000 last year in funding, and really that funding is important because it helps them to promote their industry. It helps them to promote artists and promote business.

As well, we also have a cultural industries initiatives grant. In 2019 the budget was \$1.155 million. Really, this is important because this grant supports organizations behind the scenes. For example, CKUA received funding in support of their operating. We also support organizations to recognize artists and artist organizations through the AMPIA, and this is also done through events such as the Rosie awards.

I think I also just wanted to talk a little bit about the Alberta media fund, which I know you're very familiar with, Member. One of the things that's really important about this particular Alberta media fund is looking at the small productions through the postproduction, visual effects, and digital animation grant. The proposal that we put forward when we fund these particular organizations helps those small businesses. It helps those home-grown Alberta postproduction artists. As an example, Propeller Studios is a grant recipient for the program, and they've brought together several different organizations from across the country to be able to stream

and do postproduction for networks like Disney, Netflix, and Apple.

Those are some examples of the kinds of funding and investment that we have to support increasing the industry by 25 per cent. Thank you for the question.

Ms Goehring: Thank you.

So do you believe, with the current state, that increasing the industry by 25 per cent during a pandemic is still achievable? Yes or no?

Ms Pillipow: I'm not really sure how that relates to the annual report.

Ms Goehring: Thank you.

Okay. To follow up, we know – I'm sure you guys have heard – that many in our cultural industries say that they can't even see the light at the end of the tunnel. They're depleting their savings, they're struggling, they're, you know, hopeful about this vaccine coming forward, but it's not clear that the industry will even be up and running in 2021. We have seen so many cancellations, and they're just unsure of what their future is.

Mr. Gotfried: Point of order, Madam Chair. Could we address the annual report and the period behind it instead of speculating for future potential for the department? They're here to answer the annual report and the Auditor General's report, please.

The Chair: The Official Opposition.

Mr. Schmidt: Well, I think the member was trying to get at planning that was undertaken in the 2019-2020 year, so I don't think that this is a point of order.

The Chair: Yeah. I don't find a point of order at this time. The annual report references a number of goals and the COVID response work as well. The idea behind it was to carry them through the pandemic, and that is articulated in some of the – so I'm not finding a point of order right now.

You know, the usual caution applies, Member Goehring, with respect to making sure that we are referencing back to something that's been articulated within the annual report.

Thank you.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Madam Chair. I was getting to that if the member had allowed me to finish my question. Thank you.

My follow-up question is this. Public Accounts heard last week about the work that was under way on Alberta's recovery plan, and I'd like to ask the ministry about that plan. What is the recovery plan for Alberta's cultural industries?

Ms Pillipow: This is a very pointed question with respect to a commitment that's been made within the current '20-21 fiscal year. Am I being asked by the chair to address questions that were announced in August 2020, just for clarification?

The Chair: Thank you, Deputy. I'll ask the member to rephrase with a reference to the goals that have been laid out by the ministry in the annual report.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Thank you.

Ms Goehring: Thank you, Madam Chair, for the clarification. We know through the government's annual report that a pandemic response planning team was formed, and they first met on March 14, 2020. The planning team is co-ordinating all aspects of the

government's response, and this included the economic response in the whole of government approach. Your ministry's annual report also mentions that you started "developing an approach to address the ongoing impacts to the arts community in 2020-21 and beyond." Please tell this committee about your ministry's work on the pandemic response planning team, and did you have a major or minor seat at the table?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. That question relates to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts' commitment to developing a strategic plan. I can speak to what the AFA board has reported to us. They, in the reporting in the annual report, continue to develop a strategic plan and conduct research to inform the board's decisions on initiatives that will address the current and ongoing challenges for the arts sector. The \$28.2 million that I referenced previously, that was given to the AFA to fund artists and artist organizations, would have been part of that commitment that was made last fiscal year.

As well, I can say, specific to the question that you raised on the pandemic planning team, that the AFA is not part of our pandemic planning team.

Ms Goehring: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you.

We will now move over to the government side for a 10-minute round.

Mr. Barnes: Okay. Good morning. MLA Barnes here. I hope you can hear me.

The Chair: Yes, we can, Member.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you. Okay. Thanks to the department for all your work for Alberta. My question. The Joint Working Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was appointed to provide advice, direction, and input into the Alberta government's proposed action plan to address the call for justice. Could the department please shed further light on the action taken by the working group so far?

Thank you.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. The working group was announced in March 2020, and as I mentioned earlier, the ministry is a centre of excellence for analysis for gender and diversity. Part of our role in supporting the working group that was announced in 2020 – just to be clear, the working group is tasked with recommending options to address the calls for justice, which is outlined in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls final report. Those actions to address violence against indigenous women and girls and mechanisms for collaboration with other partners are supported and being undertaken by the working group.

9:10

Our role is to support the secretariat through the Minister of Indigenous Relations' lead by providing that centre of excellence analysis and supporting any recommendations and analysis that are undertaken by the group. Our role is to also support the Minister of Indigenous Relations in external events. The Minister of Indigenous Relations declared October 4 as Sisters in Spirit Day in 2019 and again in 2020 in honour of the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and two-spirit people and their families. The working group will be connecting with government departments, we understand, as part of its mandate to hear updates on actions that

are under way or that can be addressed going forward in the future. I also want to note that the composition of the joint working group fulfills the principles of ensuring that indigenous women's agency is at the forefront of responding to and developing actions related to implementing calls for justice.

Thank you for the question.

Mr. Barnes: Okay. Thank you. Lots there and appreciated.

The steps specifically to address the calls for justice: could you outline some of the specific steps to address the calls for justice, please?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. At this time the most specific answer that I can give you is the work that's been undertaken since the working group was established. Since the working group was established in March 2020, the work that would have occurred just within the last fiscal year that occurred within March 2020 is what I can speak to.

It is my understanding that that group has been formed as one of the key steps for addressing the calls for justice, and as the Minister of Indigenous Relations is leading on that, it also is our job, as I mentioned previously, to support the secretariat work, specifically providing that gender-based and inclusion lens on any policy options. That is all I can provide you right now, at this time.

Thank you for the question.

Mr. Barnes: Okay. Thank you for that.

Page 26 of the report mentions the repatriation of Blackfoot sacred ceremonial objects continued under the First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Act and the related Blackfoot regulation. With that in mind, can you outline, please, what progress has been made on that?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. The Royal Alberta Museum manages the ministry's commitment to repatriating sacred ceremonial objects so that they can once again be used in ceremony, and we've had that capacity in legislation since 2004. We receive about one to two requests a year. In '19-20 we had one sacred ceremonial object repatriated. It was a sacred bundle, which was repatriated to the Siksika Nation in June. Recommendations are made to the minister on whether to repatriate. These recommendations are also guided by a council from Blackfoot knowledge holders. This is a process that we've undertaken since repatriation began so that we achieve the most culturally appropriate outcomes. Repatriation is just one aspect of our commitment to indigenous peoples.

I also want to note that the Royal Alberta Museum has an indigenous advisory panel to guide it in exhibit development and collections care. It also offers free admission for all indigenous people. We had 7,900 such admissions in 2019-20. As well, we also have the privilege of caring for the Manitou Asiniy, or the Manitou Stone, a meteorite of great significance to the indigenous people. Again, free admission is offered to visit, and ceremonial offerings are encouraged in this space in the museum.

Thank you for the question, Chair.

Mr. Barnes: Yeah. Thank you for that, and thank you for your work.

Page 45 of the annual report explains that the 2020 federal government grant was actually \$9.2 million lower than budgeted, and that was primarily due to a decrease in \$9.7 million from project delays in the investing in Canada infrastructure program. The decrease of \$4 million from the prior year, again, was also mainly

for the same reason. Can the department please provide an update on the status of these projects and if this is likely to happen again?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. There were five projects that are reflected in the \$9.2 million lower than budgeted. The Heritage Park natural resources project: the construction started in September 2019, and it's expected to be completed in January 2020. The project is approximately 50 per cent completed. The recent update, though, that we've had is that there is a delay on the completion of the project to September 2022, which also contributes to the delay of some of the funding being flowed.

The Telus World of Science project started in September 2019. It was originally supposed to be completed last fall, but the project is now anticipated to be completed in May 2022.

The Winspear completion project: the construction was supposed to start in February 2020. We understand that it's still at the design phase, and it's about 30 per cent complete. It's anticipated to be completed in April 2022.

The Vivo expansion project is anticipated to start – they moved the start date, which also affects the flow of money. It's supposed to start in March 2021 now, and the anticipated completion for that project is January 2023.

The last project, the interfaith food bank upgrades: the project started in December 2019. The actual end date for the project is anticipated to be the end of May 2020. The project is very on schedule, actually, and it is 100 per cent complete. There's just a final progress report that's being submitted to Infrastructure. It also came in under budget. Happy to report that only \$116,338 was claimed in the amount for reimbursement. Did I say that correctly, Nilam?

Ms Jetha: Yes, you did.

Ms Pillipow: Okay.

Thank you very much for the question.

Mr. Barnes: Okay. Thank you.

I just want to make sure that I understand a little bit more about the process for ensuring the funding is received from the federal government once a project is back on track. It sounds like you've got some oversight, if you want to touch on that a little bit, too, about making sure with our provincial ministries that projects are happening or at least that you know where they're at. But how do we make sure that we're onside with the federal program and receiving our share of money?

Ms Pillipow: Okay. The ICIP program has an established process from the federal government, where the provinces are required to report confirming the completion of the project along with the attestation of eligible expenses. The recipients can submit a claim twice a year. The deadlines for those claims are March 1 and September 1 of each calendar year. Each recipient also has an anticipated cash flow based on the funding schedule outlined in their grant agreement. So the recipient can claim less than the anticipated cash flow of a specific year. Then, finally, once the federal government receives and then they review and accept the final report, they then provide the funding to the province based on the agreement upon payment cycles. The unclaimed funds are then carried forward to the next year and can be claimed by the recipient at a later date if those project dates are later than anticipated.

Thank you for the question.

Mr. Barnes: Okay. Thank you.

So unclaimed amounts are eligible only on that specific project, or are unclaimed amounts eligible on other important priorities for Albertans?

Ms Pillipow: It is my understanding, Member, that they are only eligible for that particular project. If there was a change in an unclaimed amount, we would have to put the money back for consideration for other projects. I'm just looking to the table for confirmation. Yes, Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, Deputy.

We will now move over to the government side. For their next round of questioning, they have 10 minutes. Please proceed, members.

Ms Goehring: Chair, you said the government side; do you mean opposition?

The Chair: Sorry. I meant the opposition side. We just have moved on from the government. Thank you.

Ms Goehring: Thank you. I would like to pick up where we left off, with questioning around the pandemic response team. I think you had just indicated that the AFA kind of had been tasked with this; however, they're not part of the response team. Can you let me and the committee know what the ministry's work is specific to the pandemic response planning team?

Ms Pillipow: Just to reiterate, before the bell had gone off, the AFA as a Crown corporation is not participating in the pandemic response team; however, the ministry supports all pandemic planning response activities. We weren't specifically on the pandemic response team per se, but one of the things that – if that's answering your specific question, but we would provide input through both the cabinet and through the Deputy Ministers' Council as well on any of the planning projects that were undertaken by the ministry and the government during the first phase of the pandemic, leading up to the end of fiscal year 2019.

9:20

Ms Goehring: Thank you. We saw that the output of the pandemic response planning team was its recovery plan, and I can tell you from my conversations with industry regarding artistic and cultural components that they feel that there is nothing in there for them. Their industry can't really operate. To the ministry: did Alberta's industry get what they needed out of the recovery plan, and would you call the planning team a success from your ministry's perspective?

Ms Pillipow: The ministry put forward options within the fiscal year ending 2019. You're talking about all the activities that occurred to the end of March. Is that clear, just to be clear?

Ms Goehring: Yes. Yeah.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. The recovery plan was announced in August 2020, so I can speak to the actions that occurred in March 2020.

What I could say with respect to the pandemic planning team is that the ministry had opportunity to engage with stakeholders early on in the pandemic as the Alberta Foundation for the Arts did engage with their stakeholders to understand what some of their concerns were. What they heard from their stakeholders in the first phase was that operating dollars were a priority.

We also took time to meet with individual members of the different arts groups. What we heard was that they were concerned about loss of revenue and the need for prioritization of operating

dollars. As a result of those initial discussions, at the end of March 2020, the AFA and the ministry were focusing dollars on operating to support those organizations.

The other thing I'd like to share is that Minister Aheer, also as co-chair for the federal-provincial table with culture and heritage, played a very important role in advocating and lobbying the federal government for the challenges faced by the cultural, heritage, and sport sector. One of the things, just to give you some information – the government of Canada as a result of the lobbying of both the minister as co-chair . . .

Ms Goehring: Sorry. I hesitate to interrupt, but you had already articulated this in a previous member's response, and it's on the record, so if I could just move on, that would be great.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Just to be clear, though, I wanted to just outline what the federal dollars were for the province, so I can submit that at another time if you're interested.

Ms Goehring: Perfect. Thank you. I'd like to focus on what the province is doing to support the industry. Thank you.

About the work that you referenced on page 18 of the annual report, where you discussed developing an approach to address the ongoing impacts resulting from the pandemic, can you update us on what the status of this work is? What's the approach, and when will the plan be released?

Ms Pillipow: As I mentioned earlier, the AFA board is continuing to develop a strategic plan in support of their work going forward for the next fiscal year. The statement of that particular commitment in the annual report reflects the work that was going to be happening in the next fiscal year. Part of that work, as I mentioned, was also to ensure that the AFA and the ministry understood what the priorities were for the sector. Obviously, lack of revenue and not being able to generate revenue is a challenge. As well, it is also a challenge for the organizations to have lack of operating dollars.

I did want to re-emphasize, though, Member, that part of the efforts in lobbying the federal government to get dollars for artists and artist organizations was an important part of the provincial role and that that role did get just over \$12.7 million into Alberta for artists and artist organizations. That's not an insignificant amount of money, and the federal government was playing a key role in ensuring that all artists and artist organizations who are not able to generate revenue or earn an income were supported. The minister here, Minister Guilbeault, continues to lobby at the federal government level for continued support. The AFA is also continuing to engage and understand what the concerns are of their sector right now.

Ms Goehring: Thank you. I appreciate that she's lobbying. I just am concerned that the emphasis is being put on what the feds can do and the lack of what the province is actually doing to support this industry at this point.

I'd like to ask about outcome 1.3 on page 14. For the benefit of our viewing audience today, this outcome talks about a strategy to leverage income and support from the private sector. In 2019-2020 this strategy was key to growing the industry, but in the past few weeks we've seen thousands of job losses at Suncor, Cenovus, Husky. I could go on, but my point is that some of the most philanthropic private-sector companies are going to pull back their support. So a few questions on outcome 1.3: how large is the expected loss in private-sector contributions? How large an impact will this have on your goal of growing the industry by 25 per cent? Finally, as getting more funds into the sector is a key outcome for

the ministry, are you preparing to backfill the lost donations from the private sector?

Ms Pillipow: I'm just going to ask if my ministry can pull the donations from our budgets and information for the AFA. We don't actually collect private donations ourselves as the ministry right now, but we do accept donations under sport and, as well, from the AFA. They have the ability to accept donations. I don't have the numbers specific to private donations available, so I'll have to get that for the member.

I think that the member is referring to – Chair, thank you for the question – the commitment to a creative partnerships initiative. Is that what you're referring to?

Ms Goehring: Yes.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. I guess what I would say is that this goes back to the government's commitment to growing the cultural sector by 25 per cent.

Sorry. I'm just going to refer to the donations and other contributions. In 2019-20 we budgeted \$450,000 for donations and other contributions. We received \$288,000 in 2020, just so you know. I don't have a breakdown of that information, but I can get it for you.

The second part of your questions was on how we were going to be working with the private sector to support additional dollars associated with this. One of the commitments in the creative partnerships initiative and how that's articulated in commitment 1.1 is to be able to understand what kind of work and interest there is out there. One of the great things is that there is a lot of really important work going on within the social innovation and, as well, within the entrepreneurship areas. If we look at organizations and some of the work that we did to leverage donations from any kind of charitable matching programs, or if we start to do research to understand what's going on in areas like Australia, they have leveraged private-sector dollars by establishing and enabling a system through crowd funding and also created this system where donations can be made to the government. This was the early work that was articulated in 1.1, that is still under way.

Ms Goehring: I'm specifically asking: is the ministry preparing to actually backfill if those dollars do not come in from the private sector?

Ms Pillipow: I'm not really sure that I understand the question.

Maybe, Melissa, do you have anything that you would like to add?

Ms Banks: I would say that this is work that is still going on. So decisions, specifically in terms of programming and how they might be funding or whether backfilling would be happening with dollars, have not yet been determined, to be able to share that with you. That work is going on in the current year.

Ms Pillipow: I guess I would say, Chair, that the budget . . .

The Chair: Thank you.

We will now move on to the third round for the government side. I believe it's the third round that we are now on.

Thank you.

Ms Rosin: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you so much for being here today. My first line of questioning is going to be around the sport part of your portfolio. On page 20 it states that over \$2 million was given in grant funding to the international sporting

events such as the World Cup women's downhill skiing and the FIS Ski World Cup. Both events, of course, were held in my constituency. These are fairly large taxpayer investments for a few number of events to be held in a year, so I'm just wondering if you can elaborate or talk to what kind of return on investment our government typically sees when we invest such large amounts of money in these large international sporting events.

9:30

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. Based on the 2017 economic impact assessment, the Lake Louise World Cup provides total net economic activity of \$22 million for the province of Alberta, including \$17 million for Banff and Lake Louise. We did not have information for the 2018 event. As no application was received for 2019, we're also just now waiting for the final reporting for the 2020 event.

Thank you for the question.

Ms Rosin: Okay. Thank you. To go a little bit deeper into those numbers, can you elaborate as to what, I suppose, facets that economic return was seen in, whether it be tourism or whether it be small business, sporting investment? I'm just curious if you can go deeper into that \$22 million number and that \$17 million number, especially for Banff and Lake Louise, and just elaborate on what sectors of the economy that return was seen in.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. I apologize, Member. I don't have the breakdown of that level of detail. I'd have to provide it in writing.

Ms Rosin: Okay. That's all right. Thank you. I'd appreciate if you'd be able to do that, though, afterwards.

Page 19 of your annual report states that the Alberta sports commission was dissolved into the department to reduce costs and regulatory requirements to support grant applicants, so I'm wondering if you can elaborate on how much money this decision saved the government and if you've heard any sentiment, whether that be positive or negative, expressed by grant applicants towards this streamlined application process.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. Eliminating the Alberta Sport Connection achieved savings on board costs and also helped to streamline decision-making. Once the integration of the Alberta Sport Connection programs came into the department, we estimated that we eliminated \$680,000 annually for a total estimated cost of \$2.7 million in savings over four years. We did not receive any notable feedback from the public about the dissolution of the Alberta Sport Connection. Minister Aheer did however prioritize engagement with the sector stakeholders throughout the year to hear from them.

Also, a really important meeting happened between the Active Alberta Coalition that brought together stakeholders from both the sport and recreation and living sectors, and at this meeting the minister heard about the groups' willingness to work together and make sure that there are common objectives being achieved for recreational and competitive sports so all Albertans can continue to enjoy recreation and sport and active living. Prior to the dissolution of the Alberta Sport Connection an artificial definition appeared to exist between those two stakeholders, but we're already really seeing a lot of progress being made at the end of March 31, after that meeting, as those new conversations and collaborations emerge.

Thank you for the question.

Ms Rosin: Yeah. Thank you.

To follow up, since that new grant streamlining application process has been implemented, have we seen an uptake or a downtake in the number of sport grant applications received?

Ms Pillipow: We haven't seen any change in the number of applications that have been received at the end of March 31.

Ms Rosin: Okay. Thank you.

Also, then, one more follow-up to those questions. There was an interim board established to support this transition, so now that that transition is over, I'm wondering if the plan is to either phase out or establish a new board to ensure consistent delivery of the programming through this application process.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. The interim board was appointed through order in council, and it was set for a term that ended on March 31, 2020. As soon as that interim board was dissolved, the ASC Act was repealed through legislation effective March 31, 2020, so essentially the board was eliminated. The intention in absorbing the business of the Alberta Sport Connection into the ministry was not to form a new board, but the ministry, with the oversight of the minister, would take on the accountability.

Minister Aheer is very engaged, as you know, with sport-sector stakeholders and continued to hear from them up until the end of March 31, 2020, on sport development, and as I mentioned, she met with SPAR stakeholders as well following the budget to really understand what the sector priorities are and challenges and what the needs are in prioritizing support for those programs to deliver safe and effective sport and recreational opportunities for Albertans.

Ms Rosin: Okay. Thank you.

Page 6 of the LAO research report states, "Starting on page 26, the Ministry's performance indicators are well set out . . . all of which conforms to good performance measurement practice." In spite of these good practices, though, it seems as though a few of the measures don't seem to be terribly well aligned with departmental objectives. I'm wondering if your ministry has re-evaluated its performance metrics in light of the Auditor General's recommendations in the 2019 report, detailing with these effective results analysis.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. Yes, absolutely, metrics are reviewed annually, and the ministry continues to examine the programs and services as well as analyze any of our internal and external data sources in an effort to develop metrics that adhere to both the government of Alberta standards as well as align with the ministry outcomes that we articulate in our annual report and business plan. For example, our annual survey of Albertans, which is something that we do every year to develop our performance measures, includes questions that provide information for multiple metrics. We added in important questions around the understanding of multiculturalism, diversity, and racism in our last survey of Albertans so that we could understand how our metrics could be adjusted based on the feedback from that survey. Over the years we also refine our questions, and they're improved to be able to best represent how our business and outcomes have changed through our business.

Thank you for the question.

Ms Rosin: Okay. Thank you.

That's all for me. I will cede the rest of my time to some of my colleagues.

Thank you.

The Chair: Mr. Clerk, would you mind stopping the clock?

It appears that on the government side – I just want to make sure that we're being fair to them in terms of unmuting. Looking to the government side for . . .

Mr. Gotfried: I think Member Guthrie is to step in, please.

The Chair: Okay. Very good.

Mr. Clerk, just begin the clock again when the member begins speaking. Thank you.

Mr. Roth: Mr. Guthrie, I believe your microphone is still muted.

Mr. Gotfried: Madam Chair, it seems like he's having some technical difficulties, so I'll step in for beginning the next rotation.

Thank you, Chair, and thank you to our guests here today as well. On page 16 of the annual report it states that in 2019-2020, 266 community facility enhancement program, or CFEP, applications, totalling \$25 million, were actually approved. Can you share with us how many applications in total were submitted to get to that final approved number of 266, please?

Ms Pillipow: Sure. You bet. Thank you for the question, Chair. The CFEP small and CFEP large applications received 712 applications for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Just as an example of the community facility enhancement program recipients we had, the Athabasca District Agricultural Society received \$125,000 through the community facility enhancement program – that's through the small funding stream – to assist with the construction of a new riding arena and multi-use facility for all types of events. This facility will be the first public year-round multi-use facility in the community for urban and rural members in the region.

Thank you for the question.

Mr. Gotfried: Excellent.

I think the public needs to understand – and certainly I get a lot of questions from my constituents, particularly community associations. What criteria are used to evaluate the applications, and do you anticipate, from the past year, whether there's any need to adjust those going forward?

9:40

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. CFEP guidelines: section 4 provides the criteria. I'll go quickly through the criteria, and then I want to give you a couple of examples of how that's applied. First of all, projects must address a community-identified need and demonstrate community involvement. Projects must also demonstrate public access or benefit that will be given. Let's say, for example, a proposal was given that didn't have a lot of people going in an out of it. That kind of project would be a lower priority. Organizations that don't have a sufficient amount of matching resources are also given lower priority as we are approving projects that have dollar-for-dollar matching. As well, due to limited funds and a high demand for CFEP, not all requests that meet the eligible criteria can be approved. Some applications may receive full, reduced, or no funding for their project. Applications are also assessed against the specific criteria . . .

The Chair: Thank you, Deputy.

I will now move to the last round of the Official Opposition. The fourth round is 10 minutes. Your time begins when you start speaking, please.

Member Irwin: Perfect. Thanks, all. Janis Irwin here. Honoured to join you all virtually here from Treaty 6 territory. I would like to ask about the status of women portion of the ministry. There's, you

know, a lot of positive language in this report about supporting women, but then we see the budget. You cut \$1.4 million during the fiscal year, or roughly 30 per cent of the overall budget. If we were to put that into perspective, across the entire government of Alberta status of women really had the largest budget cut in percentage terms. I would like to know why. I mean, what message does this send to women, to over 50 per cent of the population in this province, that their advocate in government was cut by 30 per cent?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for that question, Chair. Just to be clear, the status of women funding for 2019-20 was \$3.58 million. I think the member knows as well that the status of women grant program was folded into the community initiatives program base funding stream, which is accessed. That budget, for the community initiatives program, is \$19.725 million. We allocate about \$10 million available for project funding through that stream.

When we look at the status of women and the work that is done, there are some key initiatives that continue to be supported. I know the member is aware of those. Status of women continues to support the important work through the centre of excellence for gender-based analysis and inclusion. That work continued and supported Clare's law, protecting against domestic violence and protecting survivors as well against human trafficking, also raising awareness of sexual- and gender-based violence by leading the campaigns for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and sexual violence awareness month, declaring February 6, 2020, as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and cutting . . .

Member Irwin: Okay. Thank you. Totally. I've read the annual report quite closely. I'll just cut you off in the interest of time because I'd also like to note that you are really the main ministry that explicitly references the LGBTQ2S-plus community. Again, I'd ask: what message is sent to that community when this ministry is being decimated? And on that note, I see many references to supporting the community, for example, 3.6 on page 24, but really only a few vague references to the actions, the tangible actions, that are actually being taken, like raising a flag, which one would question, given this government's actions, how meaningful that really is. Could you tell us what specifically the ministry is doing to support the LGBTQ2S-plus community?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you very much for the question, Chair. If I could also just mention with respect to the budget for status of women that when the ministry was consolidated, we also consolidated the budget for support services, so that does lower the amount of money that would have been in a stand-alone ministry.

As you mentioned, Minister Aheer has paid attention and careful attention to engaging with the LGBTQ2S-plus community, mentioning the raising of the pride flag and the transgender flag. Those were Minister Aheer's and the government's commitments to engage with the community and be able to have increased awareness and understand what some of the patterns are in participating and engaging with the community. For example, she also attended a round-table with stakeholders to learn about the concerns of the community and understand where she can be best supporting the community.

Thank you for the question.

The Chair: You are muted, Member.

Member Irwin: Thank you for that. My first ever. No, just kidding. I'm asking about tangible actions. You know, again, one must question the meaningfulness of raising a flag when this government

continues to attack our community. I refer you and the people watching to page 23 of the report and key outcome 3.4. The outcome reads that the ministry will

collaborate with government ministries to ensure gender and intersectional analysis is consistently applied to evidence-based decision-making at all phases in the development and review of programs, policies and services throughout government.

Given that this is a key outcome for the department, how do you respond to the Premier and head of Executive Council when he calls intersectionality a kooky theory? Does the ministry agree with the Premier that intersectionality is a kooky theory? Does the ministry agree with the Premier's position that intersectionality is kooky?

Ms Pillipow: I'm sorry, Chair. I don't see a reference to intersectionality in the annual report. You're asking me to respond on our actions on 3.4?

Member Irwin: Absolutely. When you're talking about – you use the word. This is 3.4 on page 23: "intersectional analysis." The Premier himself noted that intersectionality was a kooky theory, so does the ministry support the Premier's view of intersectionality?

Ms Pillipow: I can comment on the ministry's actions as it relates to us being a centre of excellence for gender diversity and analysis, Member and Chair. What I can say is that the ministry contributed that analysis to the development of some key pieces of legislation: Clare's law, which was passed, and important work that goes into the ministry supporting a policy analysis also understanding stakeholder needs. As well, that analysis helped inform the human trafficking work and the task force that was established by making sure that we have a broad representation of members on the task force, and we provide expert support and advice on the application of that analysis for several other initiatives.

Am I missing any, Nilam, that you would like me to suggest?

Ms Jetha: No. You talked about the big ones: Clare's law, murdered and missing indigenous women. All of these projects: we do provide the lens to them, including some of the pandemic projects going on as well.

Ms Pillipow: Thank you, Member, for the question.

Member Irwin: Yeah. I can imagine the work is quite challenging, though, when you've got a Premier who doesn't believe in intersectionality.

So moving on . . .

Mr. Gotfried: Point of order, Madam Chair. Speculating on what the Premier believes or doesn't believe in has no relevance to this annual report and the scope of this meeting. I would ask the member to please rein that in at the chair's direction, please.

The Chair: Sure. Looking to the Official Opposition for a response.

Member Irwin: Well, I can just . . .

The Chair: Member, we are on a point of order.

Mr. Schmidt: Again, we have the member just airing grievances. The member wasn't even asking a question. She was just making a comment in response to what she heard from the deputy minister, and I don't think it's a point of order. I'm sure she's going to move on to ask the next question.

The Chair: I do not find a point of order. Certainly, the member was about to ask a question, so I will allow her to do so.

Member Irwin: Thank you. I will continue.

Listen, you've talked a little bit about this intersectional analysis. When Executive Council brings forward a cabinet report or puts a formal recommendation to cabinet, is the ministry still ensuring that all the documents include an intersectional analysis? I know you've mentioned a couple of examples, Clare's law and missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. It's not GBA plus. It sounds like different ideas being applied. Where else has this intersectional analysis been applied? How robust was it?

9:50

Ms Pillipow: One of the key things – thank you for the question, Chair; sorry – when you're thinking about the work that happens at the bureaucratic level is ensuring that we have the working group and they're establishing some of both the stakeholder and the issue identification and the policy development analysis. That work is very much part of our core accountabilities, as it is mentioned in our annual report. I don't necessarily know if it's small to say that our team at status of women contributed to the development of Clare's law, human trafficking, and provides both the secretariat and analysis work for the response to the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls report. That's a substantive amount of work that the ministry has contributed to.

We're also a centre of excellence. One of the things that's really important, as we're developing that broad lens through the use of IDEA, is ensuring that we're consulted on any number of policies – and our team is available to do that – ensuring that we're providing both the gender and the broad lens as it relates to multiculturalism and inclusion. Our team is open to provide comments through any working groups. I also know that we work very closely with some of our colleagues in CSS as we are responsible for making sure that we understand what some of the data and the policy needs are in government. I'll use the example of the release of the one line that came out in 2019. That was funded in part by AASAS. Getting some good data and understanding out there into the issues affecting survivors of sexual violence is really an important part of the work that's done by the ministry.

Thank you for the question.

Member Irwin: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. I certainly didn't mean to minimize the work on those pieces, but I was calling for an intersectional lens to be applied . . .

The Chair: Okay. Thank you, Member.

The time has now elapsed on that round, so we will now move over to the government side for their final round of 10 minutes.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you again to our guest today. I'm going to put it back to the CFEP, so the community enhancement program grants, which I think most of us as MLAs know are extremely important to our community associations and community groups and other nonprofits. I just want to clarify some numbers. The report notes that applications totalling \$25 million were approved but that approximately \$15 million was distributed to community groups specifically. Can you explain any other allocations or the disparity reflected between these two numbers?

Ms Pillipow: Sure. Absolutely. Thank you very much, Chair, for the question. All the CFEP projects were approved prior to March 31; however, the projects that we received for the CFEP large projects – that's any project that gets funding in excess of \$125,000. Melissa, is that correct? It's typically accrued each year as individual grant agreements, with each recipient need to be developed. The statement also refers to the funds that were

distributed before March 31, not the funding that was approved. So CFEP large \$10 million was approved for the fiscal year 2019-20, and those funds were accrued for a period of time and just paid out over the fiscal year.

CFEP small also was approved and paid out at \$15 million.

Mr. Gotfried: You know, it's so important, these CFEP grants, I know, particularly during these very tough times, for many of our organizations. Through this program community nonprofit organizations have been able to purchase, build, renovate, upgrade public-use community facilities. Can the department explain what role if any it has to ensure an efficient use of these funds? I mean, we're very happy to see these funds going into the community, but how do you monitor it?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you for the question, Chair. It's a really important question in that we want to make sure that we understand – we go back to our criteria. One of the important criteria is understanding the project viability and the financial feasibility of a project. In order for a project to be considered viable, the organization has to demonstrate that it has that sufficient matching that I spoke about earlier and also that it has access to additional funding that's required to complete the project. Also, they need to be able to provide a detailed budget and explain the costs within the application and also demonstrate that long-term financial viability and self-sufficiency of the organization. They also have to be able to meet the long-term and ongoing operational needs. We wouldn't want to support funding of an organization's new CFEP project if they couldn't maintain the operating costs.

It's also really important for us to understand whether or not that project is ready. Project readiness includes the availability of resources that I mentioned, but it's also that human and financial to carry out the project. We need to make sure that prior to the funding that is given, the application has to be also considered from the community and the region. We're looking at that broad regional support and application and really demonstrate that organizational – what is their need for financial assistance and the regional equity?

We also have a lot of due diligence in place where there's continual reporting and audit requirements for grants that are given out. As well, I think having that matching funding and that dollar-for-dollar matching is a really important component for that accountability.

Mr. Gotfried: Thank you. I'd like to maybe just clarify, just a little bit of a follow-up.

Ms Pillipow: Oh, sure.

Mr. Gotfried: Where, typically, do the matching funds come from? Obviously, this is a great way to leverage other levels of government in terms of their investment. Can you maybe give us a little bit of an update on sort of: what typically is the type of matching funding that they look for?

Ms Pillipow: Sure. I'll just give you an example. You know, for example, we funded in the last fiscal year the Calgary West Soccer Club centre. As a nonprofit organization, as an example, I don't have the exact details of their funding, but they will be eligible for any kind of – doing casinos or bingos. They can match dollars within their organization, so anything that they do that is eligible as a nonprofit to do fundraising activities. They can also take donations as a nonprofit and put those towards the project.

Melissa Banks, my ADM responsible for the program, do you have anything else that you'd want to add?

Ms Banks: No. I think you've covered it.

Ms Pillipow: Okay.

Mr. Gotfried: Great. I would like to pivot to the CIP, or the community initiatives program, as another very, very important program for us in the community. Page 15 of the annual report states that

Through the Community Initiatives Program (CIP), the ministry continued to invest in eligible non-profit organizations that create opportunities for Albertans to engage with, help develop, and support initiatives that enhance [the enrichment of] communities throughout Alberta.

That's, obviously, a really, really key issue for many of us. Based on your report, 498 applications were approved. Again, how many were received to get to this final number of 498?

Ms Pillipow: Thank you. As a high-demand program the CIP program received 1,053 applications through four funding streams last year, so project-based we received 680. We received 22 from major cultural and sporting events. We also received 276 applications for operating, and then we received 75 applications for the international development program, which was cancelled in 2019. I just also want to share some examples of some of those great projects that were funded, if the member would allow.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah, sure. Please.

Ms Pillipow: Okay. Chair, my apologies. As an example, the community initiatives program funded the Hispanic Arts Society \$75,000 through the project-based funding for August 2019. Their Expo Latino festival in Calgary has taken place for over 21 years. It promotes multiculturalism and showcases Latino arts culture and enhances the region. It's really one of those great news stories. As well, just a really important one, looking at another area of funding that it goes to, the Wellspring Edmonton; \$75,000 through project-based to support that organization that serves cancer patients and their family with some upgrades to technology.

Thank you very much for the question.

Mr. Gotfried: Yeah. Thanks. Those are great organizations. Nice to see that multicultural aspect as well as the community supports. What were the eligibility requirements to apply for the program? Again, have you learned anything in terms of whether those should be adjusted or amended going forward?

Ms Pillipow: Yes. Thank you very much for the question, Chair. Each CIP funding stream – there are the four streams that I mentioned – looks at an eligible organization, so are they eligible to be registered under the Societies Act? There's other particular legislation that I don't have in front of me that I can reference. We look that the application and budget information is complete. We also make sure that they've met the program criteria. As well, CIP also has a matching component that's required for all of our programs. Member, there is a very detailed list of eligibility criteria, which we're happy to provide you in writing, that I didn't want to go through because it would take quite a long time.

10:00

Mr. Gotfried: That would be great. Yeah, you know, it's certainly a question we get asked a lot in the constituency. Maybe you can explain the process to us again for the benefit of Albertans. What is the process? There may be organizations out there that are eligible but that have not gone through that before. Maybe you can explain how that process works and what they need to do to prepare for that application assessment.

Ms Pillipow: Sure. Thank you for the question, Chair. First, I'll say that we have a very dedicated grants staff that work with organizations to meet the intake deadlines for grants to ensure that they understand the criteria. I'm just going to ask Melissa Banks, who is responsible for community grants, just to talk a little about the kind of work that her staff does to support organizations who want to apply for a grant program.

The Chair: Hon. members, I hesitate to interrupt, but we do have 10 o'clock, so we do need to seek unanimous consent to continue the meeting past 10 per the structure of this meeting. I am now looking to committee members and asking for unanimous consent to move beyond 10 a.m. I will ask only one question. Do any members object to moving past 10 a.m.?

Mr. Gotfried: Madam Chair, our caucus has a conflict, so unfortunately we're going to have to object to that.

The Chair: Okay. I do not see unanimous consent to continue, so this meeting is now adjourned.

Thank you, hon. members.

[The committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m.]

