

[Chairman: Mr. R. Moore]

[10 a.m.]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I'll call the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to order.

First of all, we'd like to have approval of the minutes of May 18, if they are in order.

MR. JONSON: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jonson has moved approval. All in agreement?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed. Carried.

Well, this morning we have the Hon. Norm Weiss, Minister of Recreation and Parks, appearing before the committee. I'd like to welcome him and his officials to the session this morning, and look forward to discussing the spending of his department for the year ended 1986-87 as outlined in the public accounts volume 2 and also in the annual Report of the Auditor General.

So, good morning, Mr. Weiss. We say welcome. Would you like to introduce your officials with you and possibly give us an overview of your department before we go into questions?

MR. WEISS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and the members of your committee. I'd like to provide some highlights on the '86-87 fiscal year and review the activities of the Recreation and Parks ministry in general. But prior to that, I would like to accept your invitation to introduce the members of the staff that are here this morning. I'd also like to indicate why we have as many who are here, and the purpose too.

But to start out, first of all, Mr. Chairman: to my far right, Mr. Julian Nowicki, assistant deputy minister of recreational development division. Following this way, sitting next to Julian, is Carol Shields, no stranger: executive assistant to the department and to myself. The gentleman to my right is Dr. Barry Mitchelson, deputy minister. I might indicate to members of the committee, Mr. Chairman, that I regret that in all possibility this will be the last attendance by Dr. Barry Mitchelson, as he will be leaving the department to go on to resume his career and his activities at the university. So we're going to be sad to see him go, and I hope you don't mind my expressing it that way to all members.

To my left is John Weins, the manager of financial planning and management. Next is David Rehill, executive director of the finance and administration division. Just skipping over a little to Donn Cline, the assistant deputy minister, provincial parks division, and next to Donn is Rod Burkhardt, director of financial administration from Kananaskis Country. The lady on the far end, anchoring our position, who did so very well throughout the Olympics is Sherri Thorsen, the director of the Olympic Secretariat. In the back row behind us, no stranger, is Mal Clewes, assistant director of the Alberta Sport Council, and sitting next to Mal is Chuck Moser, director of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Mr. Chairman, to your members of the Assembly, I recognize that perhaps we're here in larger numbers than most. I believe the minister is responsible for a department, but as well, when I say yes, the minister's responsible, the department is accountable. And it's for this reason that through public ac-

counts I feel they should, as well, share the responsibility and the accountability. They're here and are going to assume the role of answering the questions directly wherever possible, to give, first of all, what I believe is a better explanation, perhaps, than maybe I could as minister, but to show that they are knowledgeable and as well responsible in the department's day-to-day operation. So it's not a test by any means or an accountability to me, but an accountability to you, gentlemen, as members of Public Accounts. So they're here for that reason, and it's not to avoid any responsibility or dereliction of duties that I'll be turning the questions more than ever directly through to the individual members.

Mr. Chairman, in continuing on with remarks, I believe I'd like to take about eight or 10 minutes to highlight some of the emphasis on fiscal responsibility, while at the same time placing greatest emphasis on meeting public needs that I believe demonstrated a clear commitment on the ministry's part to maintaining a high degree of quality in the development and delivery of programs, services, and facilities. I'm pleased to say that Alberta Recreation and Parks, it is my opinion, is performing its duties and responsibilities at a remarkable level. That's where you gentlemen and ladies will have the opportunity to question that as well.

In the beginning of this fiscal year the department began with 585 permanent staff. At the end of the fiscal year the department had 562 permanent staff on payroll. That is a reduction of some 23 person-years, or 4 percent. Estimates provided to the Committee of Supply in 1986 and '87 called for the expenditure of some \$133.7 million during 1986 and '87. The total funds expended by the department were reduced to some \$128.8 million. The reduction in spending was in response to an expenditure freeze initiated in November 1986 by the government of Alberta, which we're all very familiar with. The freeze had a significant impact on the expenditures of Recreation and Parks. Our target was to reduce by some \$2.7 million those areas of our budget considered to be what was termed "discretionary." We met, Mr. Chairman, and surpassed our reduction goals. Through the concentrated efforts of a dedicated management team we were able to exceed that target and extended the year by leaving unspent in excess of some \$4 million. Although this put a tremendous strain on the overall organization, all possible efforts were made - and were successful, I might add - to ensure the service levels provided to Albertans were not affected.

Privatization has been another key initiative of the department of the past several years, and it's one that we spoke on many times. It's an area where the department has a particularly impressive track record. Let me give you an example. For the past several years provincial parks have increased the percentage of work contracted for capital projects throughout the private sector. In 1986-87, if you combined the money that was spent on capital projects through the contracts with the private sector and the amount of money the department spent on other contracted services, it brings the total private-sector involvement to just over \$12 million in service and construction contracts. This very positive move has resulted from a decisive management shift from a direct hands-on approach in the areas of parks construction to one of project management of private-sector work.

At the same time, the department had begun to move towards increasing the purchase of certain park-related services from the private sector. In the '86-87 fiscal year this department was able to plan the privatization of the campground operations at Carson-Pegasus Provincial Park and Crimson Lake Provincial

Park. It is very important to note here, Mr. Chairman, that while the department has moved towards privatization, it has not and will not relinquish its stewardship responsibility for Alberta's treasured and diverse parklands. It's an area that we're very conscious of. The move towards privatization in provincial parks is for the operation and general maintenance of campground facilities. The overall management responsibility and ownership of the parks remain and will continue to remain in the hands of all Albertans. I will have more to say on our provincial park system later in the presentation, but now I wish to address other aspects of the ministry.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Alberta's tax dollars provided to us through the General Revenue Fund have supported the ministry in the work it has done to improve the quality of life for all Albertans, such as through the Olympic Secretariat, Kananaskis Country, the recreation development division, the Alberta Sport Council, the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and Alberta's provincial parks system.

I'd like to first take a look at the contribution made by the Olympic Secretariat during its fourth year of operation in the '86-87 fiscal year. Of course, it's now wound up. In '86-87 the Olympic Secretariat focused on completing and opening the Nakiska ski area and Canmore Nordic Centre. Nakiska opened on December 5, 1986 — and I was very privileged to have had the opportunity to have been there — and then hosted the pre-Olympic test competition in December 1986, as well as in January 1987 and March 1987: truly significant events.

The Canmore Nordic Centre opened on December 6, 1987, and hosted three World Cup races — I emphasize that to the members of the committee: three World Cup races — Canada and Alberta Cup races as well, and conducted training camps and recreation skiing. Truly remarkable for a first year of operation.

In addition to completing the work on Nakiska and Canmore, the Olympic Secretariat continued to monitor progress on the McMahon Stadium expansion project, one which many members are perhaps unaware of. Substantial progress was also made in '86-87 towards development of the athletes' village and the student housing project development in the University of Alberta. I hope all hon. members have an opportunity to see that facility that's a legacy and in place for many years to come for future Albertans.

The foundation work done by the Olympic Secretariat during this fiscal year went a long way towards providing the facilities to make it possible for Albertans to dynamically, effectively, and graciously host the world during the 1988 Winter Olympics. Many of the visitors from around the world who came to Alberta during the '88 Winter Olympics spent time in Kananaskis Country, the year-round, multi-use recreation area which includes Nakiska, Mount Allan, and the Canmore Nordic Centre.

Mr. Chairman, it's interesting to note some of the specifics and the details as far as overall statistics. During the summer of 1986 a total of some 2.2 million people visited the facilities in Kananaskis Country. Of those, some 415,000 were campers that stayed overnight. Camping increased by some 20 percent over the same period in 1985. Maintenance and services were required in Kananaskis for some 2,946 campsites, 11,031 day-use sites and 703 kilometres of trails. In '86 and '87 Kananaskis Country responded to some 260 emergencies, including water rescues, searches, and climbing accidents, and unfortunately had to deal with some fatalities as well. New facility operations in the '86-87 fiscal year included the emergency service centre at Ribbon Creek that was officially opened in September of 1986.

It is fully operational now, with a fire chief, deputy fire chiefs, volunteer fire department, ambulance service, and paramedics: truly a facility that serves the overall region and serves it well.

A facility that we can all be very proud of, Mr. Chairman, the William Watson Lodge, the facility for handicapped and senior citizens in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, officially opened four new buildings in September of 1986. This brings the total capacity of overnight accommodation to 108, more than doubling the previous capacity of the facility. It is used well and extensively. Canoe Meadows, a new picnic facility with a special camping area, was opened on Highway 40 on the Kananaskis River to cater to white-water enthusiasts. The Canmore Nordic Centre, site of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games cross-country, biathlon, and part of the nordic combined events, was officially opened as well, in December of '86. The centre operated by Kananaskis Country has proven to be a first-class nordic facility.

Kananaskis Country continues to be an extremely popular and attractive destination site for Albertans and their visitors. Its recreation opportunities and natural landscapes are expected to draw more than 4 million visitors annually by the fiscal year ending 1988-89, which will be an increase of some half million visitors since '86 and '87. You can see, Mr. Chairman and members of your committee, that the overall region has been very busy and very active in bringing on new facilities to the general public. Recreational opportunities and facilities have long been recognized for the ability not only to attract tourism to the province but also for their ability to enhance quality of life of all Albertans, and a prime goal and objective of our department.

Our recreation development division of Alberta Recreation and Parks is responsible for promoting the development of recreation opportunities and facilities in Alberta. This is best achieved by providing financial assistance, information, and consulting services to municipal recreation authorities, sport and recreation associations, and other volunteer organizations in the province. It's an area that I am ashamed to say, Mr. Chairman, many people are not cognizant of: the overall involvement with the provincial sport and recreation associations.

During 1986 and '87 the division continued to deliver the very popular community recreational/cultural grant program, or CRC program. This program provided some \$20 per capita to go towards facility development, operation, and maintenance, as well as recreation and culture programming, planning, and service delivery. It is a program which helps support the very foundations of our society at the grass-roots community level. The CRC program provided some \$47.8 million to municipalities and community organizations for facility development, for their management and operation as well, along with the development and operation of recreation programs and services and for planning. Truly a fantastic program: some \$47.8 million.

As we look to the future with programs such as this, we can also look to the past to see what possibilities have been realized. This calendar year will see the end of our commitment of the capital development side of the urban parks program, a five-year program supported by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which has made possible the development of urban parks and recreation facilities in the cities of Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, and Grande Prairie. With the end of the capital phase of this program on December 31st of 1987, a total of some \$87 million has been committed, while the operating phase will continue into the year 2011 to ensure the long-term viability of the projects.

To all members of the Assembly: I commend them for their decision to ensure that, as all hon. members I'm sure will agree, the operating facet of this program is indeed a very important and integral part of the program.

On a different scale, but of equal importance to Albertans, are initiatives aimed at developing and sustaining our municipal recreation and parks facilities base. In '86 and '87 we began a new municipal recreation/tourism areas program, more commonly known as MRTA. This program is an \$11.5 million commitment funded by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, with an annual budget of some \$2.5 million. Under the program in '86 and '87 a total of 48 grants were provided for the development, construction, and operation of community-based facilities throughout the province. During '86 and '87 the recreation development division processed and accounted for some 3,528 grant applications in 22 grant categories, resulting in the issuance of cheques totaling some \$67.7 million, of which more than \$60 million came from the General Revenue Fund. The other \$7 million came from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

Operating grants of some \$2.2 million were provided to some 114 recognized provincial recreation and sport associations for administration support, leadership development, and programs development. The intent of providing such support is to allow these associations to operate more effectively and efficiently and, hopefully, thereby better serve their respective constituencies. In short, these support dollars are helping the associations help themselves, and in doing so provide valued programs and services to all Alberta residents.

The Percy Page Centre in Edmonton is a unique facility and one we're very, very proud of. It was established in 1972 as an administration centre for provincial recreation and sports associations. The demand for services at the Percy Page Centre increased throughout the years, and two annexes were developed in '85 and '86. During the '86-87 fiscal year the Percy Page Centre continued to work with Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services and within our department in planning to consolidate the three locations into one within the city of Edmonton. This, of course, has now taken place.

The Blue Lake Centre is another facility operated by the department that has tremendous development opportunities. During the '86-87 fiscal year Blue Lake Centre continued to diversify its leadership development programs, and provided over 4,000 participant days' services to recreation and sport leaders. I've had the opportunity to participate in the program myself, Mr. Chairman, and share with all hon. members that it's truly a unique, rewarding experience.

The hosting of and participation in amateur sports events is important to Albertans. Through our support and involvement in programs such as the Alberta Summer Games and Winter Games, Special Olympics, Western Canada Games, the Seniors Games, and the Canada Summer Games and Winter Games, we believe we've helped to develop better athletes and encourage participation and positive life-style pursuits, and in the development of future leaders. Amateur sport competitions have been developed at all levels in order to allow maximum opportunities for all Albertans.

As well in the '86-87 fiscal year our recreation development division provided financial assistance to various organizations to host a total of 25 national and international events in Alberta. These events have a significant impact on tourism, travel, and the hospitality industry in the province of Alberta. They provide golden opportunities for communities to rally together to support a common cause and, in the process, provide a significant

economic impact.

In 1984 the department began moving to a greater diversification in the program delivery area. I compliment my predecessor, the hon. Peter Trynchy, for having sought out those goals and those directions. He created the Alberta Sport Council, a Crown corporation. Its objectives include the development of technical programs and seminars for athletes, coaches, and officials; the organization of major competitions; the distribution of lottery funds; and corporate sector fund-raising involvements.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Alberta Sport Council was also entrusted to administer the program called the Alberta Olympic game plan. The purpose of the program was to create an awareness of Olympic sports, provide enrichment funding to provincial winter sport associations, and to provide opportunities for potential Alberta Winter Olympic athletes, coaches, and officials. In '86-87 special Winter Olympic projects included a promotional sports van program. This van traveled throughout the province, providing schools and the general public with an insight into the Olympic winter sports. In addition to that, a number of seminars were conducted for volunteers involved with the winter sports. National workshops were also held for Alberta athletes aspiring to participate in the Olympic Winter Games.

As part of the Olympic Winter Games program, Mr. Chairman, a winter sports festival was held in Edmonton in March 1987. This winter festival provided opportunities for young athletes from throughout Alberta to be exposed to and to allow them to compete in Olympic winter sport and in that particular venue.

There's one area, Mr. Chairman, where our achievements are most notable. It is with great pleasure that I bring to your attention and to all hon. members that in '84, when the Alberta Olympic game plan was conceived, only two Albertans represented Canada at the Olympic Winter Games held then in Sarajevo. In the 1988 Games in Calgary some 21 Alberta athletes were members of the Canadian team. In addition to the tremendous success of our top athletes, the Alberta Olympic game plan has facilitated the involvement of thousands of volunteers, coaches, officials, in developing athletes in Olympic winter sports. A firm Olympic winter sports foundation has been established and will continue to go onward as an ongoing legacy. As you can see, the Alberta Sport Council has come a long way in helping our ministry to provide alternate program delivery methods.

The Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation has also contributed in this regard. The Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, like the Sport Council, is a Crown agency. The foundation is charged with the responsibility to provide seed moneys from lottery proceeds and provide private-sector fund-raising initiatives to individuals and organizations in all aspects of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife to conduct special projects and programs for the benefit of Albertans. The foundation members have made a conscious effort to ensure that all Albertans in every area of the province are given an opportunity to share the benefits of the foundation. As a result, Mr. Chairman, many rural applicants, most particularly those from lower populated areas, have been given special attention when any projects are reviewed for funding. It should also be noted that through the annual enrichment funding provided to 34 provincewide recreation associations, some 800,000 Albertans received direct benefits. The thrust of the foundation activities is beginning to expand to include a variety of broad initiatives which are needed

to encourage healthy living by all Albertans. Such initiatives will include a balance of programs and activities to make life, both rural and urban, a satisfying, vibrant, and worthwhile experience.

Alberta's provincial parks system also has a mandate which relates to an improved quality of life for all Albertans. The parks system is responsible for the management, conservation, and preservation of the public lands in its care, including the provincial parks, provincial recreation areas, and of course, the ecological reserves in wilderness areas as well. The enjoyment and safety of many visitors to those areas during the '86 fiscal year and '87 fiscal year . . .

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, a point of order has been called.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman, while I really personally appreciate, and I'm sure all members do appreciate, the effort that's gone into this presentation, I wonder whether we could ask that the minister put it in writing and submit it to the members of the committee, owing to the fact that it is taking a lot of time and we only have an hour and a half to review an entire year's expenditures for this department. Could I ask that the minister perhaps make that concession to the committee?

MR. WEISS: Well, I certainly don't mind, Mr. Chairman, to make the concession. The only reason why I hesitate was I felt that this was the only time I had and the opportunity as well to put on record what we have done as a department, how we're accountable to you as a committee, and we felt that by perhaps providing some insight and detailed information, it might possibly answer some of your questions before they became questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On the point of order, if I might, Mr. Minister. We are here for an hour and a half, and you've given an excellent overview. Would you proceed, and we'll wind it up and get to the questions.

MR. WEISS: Well, certainly. I would conclude at that point and accept the hon. member's invitation to follow up in writing to the members if there was any further information which I would like to get out with regards to our policies and how we try to work with the various departments in the areas of tourism and to our ongoing commitment to the stewardship of the resource that we've undertaken.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank the members for indulgence, apologize for the time frame, and certainly look forward to answering their questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, did you have any other important areas you wanted to cover? No. Thanks very much for an excellent overview.

We have a list of members wanting to ask questions. The Member for Cardston, please.

MR. ADY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the overview. However, I would like to deal with some specific questions as they pertain to expenditures.

Volume 2, page 20.5, reference 1.0.4: even though the minister indicated that his overall department expenditures were less

than budgeted, I notice on that particular item an overexpenditure of 7.7 percent on Public Communications. In a year of restraint, can you give me some explanation of why that overexpenditure?

MR. WEISS: Certainly. As I've indicated, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to refer the questions directly to each person responsible. In this case Dr. Barry Mitchelson will respond.

DR. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The basic overexpenditure that is there was a contribution that we made to the winter program that was occurring on the Legislature Grounds. Those dollars were provided through our public communication expenditure area because we felt that to be the most appropriate. What you must realize, however, is that even though there was an overexpenditure in 1.0.4, those dollars were aggregated to the communication function from within vote 1. Vote 1 in total, as you see, was in fact underexpended. So what it was was a reallocation of dollars within vote 1 to make a contribution to the program that was co-ordinated on the Legislature Grounds over the winter period.

MR. ADY: Thank you. A supplementary question. I also note on vote 1, reference 1.0.1, Minister's Office, an overexpenditure of \$18,890. I suppose that the Minister's Office receives more scrutiny than any other item as far as overexpenditure. So of course I think this would be of public interest if the minister could explain the overexpenditure in that particular category.

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, to the hon. member. I appreciate the question. As I've indicated that each will be responsible for his own area of concern, while this directly relates to the office, I guess it's best that I would try and answer it.

The overexpenditure in my office really is a direct result of increased demands from the public. Now, what we've had to do specifically with regards to such equipment uses is that the duplicating equipment previously was shared with another department. We could not cope with the increased volume and the downtime in having to share that specific equipment, so we actually had to go in and lease a new duplicating piece of equipment. We also purchased two word processing units to keep up with the increased volume, particularly in view of the Olympic year, with the number of letters and correspondence and communication that came through to our department and in some cases had to be redirected and, as well, the overall workload that increased through the general concerns of the park expenditures and others. I might indicate that we did purchase used equipment. We did not buy new equipment, even at that. As well, the cost of the material and supplies increased accordingly to that usage, and that's the direct result of that overexpenditure.

MR. ADY: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A supplementary?

MR. ADY: No. That's all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Stettler.

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the votes on page 20.2, vote 2.1: Recreation Development, Program Support. I note that the original estimates were \$852,000, that

there was \$35,000 transferred into that department, yet at the end of the year there was still \$51,000 unexpended. I'm just wondering whether there was some change in your plans through the year, or why that surplus was left there.

MR. WEISS: I would ask the assistant deputy minister, Julian Nowicki, to respond.

MR. NOWICKI: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The answer to that question is that we had a contract position with the Alberta Sport Council that was going to be assumed by the Sport Council, and it required four to five months to complete that transfer. It was to have been completed April 1. It took until the first part of August to do it, and that is why we had to transfer in the additional \$35,000.

MR. DOWNEY: A supplementary. Well, just following on that, it still doesn't answer why there was \$51,000 left in the department budget at the end.

MR. NOWICKI: The \$51,000 that was left at the end, Mr. Chairman, was because we had an expenditure freeze that was imposed on the department. The money was frozen in November to meet that expenditure guideline for the freeze.

MR. DOWNEY: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at vote 3.2 in the provincial parks Design and Implementation sector. I note here that \$71,000 was transferred out of that department and again a surplus resulted. So I would imagine we could add that transfer out to that surplus. Was there a major cutback somewhere in the province on design and implementation in the parks?

MR. WEISS: I'd refer it to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Donn Cline.

MR. CLINE: In response to that, the \$71,000 was transferred out and into the the Parks -- Reconstruction area, so it was a reallocation of our effort into reconstruction rather than into some of the aspects of design implementation. So the net effect was that there was not a decrease in program for that reason. But certainly that year we did cut back in the total amount of our spending because of the freeze that was put in place in November.

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ponoka-Rimbey.

MR. JONSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My main question would be: on page 20.2 in subprogram 3.4 -- I believe that's entitled Parks -- Construction and Redevelopment -- only some roughly 54 percent of the budget was spent. What was the justification or reason for this rather significant underexpenditure?

MR. WEISS: I once again would refer that to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Donn Cline.

MR. CLINE: Thank you, Mr. Minister. In November of that year, as we've noted before, the government expenditure freeze was implemented, and at that time we were asked to defer any capital programs that had not yet been initiated and any capital

contracts that had not been initiated. And in this case, with the project under way there, the Cypress Hills ski facility, we did have \$350,000 worth of contracts that we had not yet initiated which we chose to freeze, so that we considerably underexpended that budget in order to aid in the cash flow problem of the government.

MR. JONSON: A further question, Mr. Chairman. Looking over on page 20.3, under Provincial Parks, vote 3, there was a substantial transfer of about \$260,000 from Supplies and Services to the Purchase of Fixed Assets. What would be the explanation for this transfer? Where was the money spent?

MR. WEISS: I would still ask Mr. Cline to continue with that.

MR. CLINE: In response to that question, in the previous year, 1985-86, we had under the capital program ordered a number of mechanical garbage containers for various provincial parks which had been scheduled for delivery in March of 1986. Unfortunately, the manufacturer encountered some financial difficulties, and he couldn't deliver the product until into the 1986-87 fiscal year. The result was that we were required to transfer funds of \$109,000 into that program to cover the cost of those fixed assets, which had not been anticipated in the budgeting process.

In addition to that, we had a capital expenditure anticipated for purchasing snow grooming equipment in the Cypress Hills ski hill project, and we transferred \$150,000 from contracting into fixed assets in order to purchase the ski groomer. So you see a total of \$259,000 transferred in for those two particular items.

MR. JONSON: Just out of curiosity, a final question, Mr. Chairman: what's a mechanical garbage container?

MR. CLINE: A mechanical garbage container is a large bin that has attached to it a hydraulic device for dumping the whole works into the garbage truck at once. It's usually three or four cubic yards.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, please.

MS LAING: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer to Kananaskis. I've heard that there were funds of \$171,000 variously reported as given to this association in either late '86 or early in 1987. I'm wondering if the minister could confirm at what date the funds were given to the Ribbon river resort.

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would ask Rod Burkhardt from Kananaskis Country to respond. I don't know specifically if we would have such detailed information. If we do not, and if Rod is not familiar with it in that way, we would undertake to provide what we could. I might emphasize, of course, that Kananaskis Country's records are all audited and, of course, accountable then back through as part of the Ribbon Creek association. So I'd ask Rod Burkhardt to respond the best that he can on it to the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore.

MR. BURKHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Minister. In referring back to the public accounts records for 1985-86, there is an amount of \$171,000 for the resort association that shows in the

public accounts for the previous year. Is this the amount that . . .

MS LAING: The question was, then was it advanced? The question was, when? What was the date of the advancement?

MR. BURKHARDT: Mr. Minister, I'm not sure what you mean by the date of the advancement. It shows in the public accounts as an expenditure in 1985-86.

MR. WEISS: I think the hon. member, Mr. Burkhardt, is referring to the fact: would it be in June, July, August specifically?

MS LAING: The information I have is that it was advanced on March 26, 1986. Would you be able to confirm that?

MR. BURKHARDT: Well, I think the Auditor General would agree with me. If the amount shows an expenditure in public accounts in the fiscal year 1985-86, I think that's where it was. When you're talking words like "advance," I'm not sure what you mean. Do you mean when it was decided to do it? That was budgeted for in . . .

MS LAING: Date of delivery?

MR. BURKHARDT: Pardon me.

MS LAING: The date of delivery of the money.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, if I could perhaps help. I think, Mr. Burkhardt, the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore is making reference to the fact that if the cheque was advanced, say, hypothetically on March 26, how would that fit into that calendar year or that period? So she wants to be more specific as to where their expenditures within that calendar period, and at what date it was . . . And if we don't have that exact date, we'd undertake to respond to the member. So I'd ask once again that if you have that information, Mr. Burkhardt, you would offer it to the member, and if not, we would certainly undertake to provide it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The minister's indicated he will get back to you, hon. member. Do you have a supplementary?

MS LAING: Okay. I'm wondering again how the advancement for 1986-87 was made, in view of the fact that no budget was completed for the Ribbon Creek association until July of that year — about \$670,000.

MR. WEISS: I would ask Mr. Burkhardt to supplement, but I would indicate to the hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore that there is no expenditure or funds advanced or paid from government to the village association until such time as the percentage of funds on the pro rata basis has been spent from the association itself. So what it does indicate is that if money were to be advanced from government as part of the original contractual agreement, it would not be spent until their money was spent first — up front, paid and gone. That's why in some cases it might appear that the funds from the government were coming in at a later time rather than at the initial funding of it. Perhaps Mr. Burkhardt would like to supplement that.

MR. BURKHARDT: Yes, Mr. Minister. The contributions the

government was prepared to make were set out in an RFD, numbered W3-85, which means it was done in 1985, and the contributions at that time that the government was prepared to undertake were set out. Each year that the resort association has been in place, as the minister has mentioned, as the members put their money in the kitty, they then can submit an invoice to the government of Alberta which then, with proper expenditure officer authority, can be paid. That's in fact what was done in the '86-87 fiscal year, in the amount of \$670,642.

MS LAING: I see; okay. The other question I would like to ask about then is the \$643,000 that was allocated for staff housing. I understand that it required approval of 90 percent of the board. I'm wondering if the minister is knowledgeable as to if any, or how many, of the board members disapproved this expenditure.

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, because they are serious allegations, if they are allegations, to be confronted with. I have taken the opportunity to review that particular concern on several occasions, have responded publicly through the media, as well as having ascertained that it's been properly audited, properly accounted for. I can assure the hon. member, and through you, Mr. Chairman, all members of the committee, that there were no irregularities, that it was properly accounted for, properly recorded, and that the votes and procedures were proper.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Calgary-McCall.

Might I just mention that it makes it a little easier for the minister and the other members of the committee to follow if you could identify the area in volume 2 of public accounts or the Auditor General's report that you're directing your question to, so that we could follow these exchanges. It'd be a lot better for the minister and his officials as well as the committee members.

Member for Calgary-McCall.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I notice on page 20.4 that a statutory appropriation was used for the Recreation and Parks' Revolving Fund. Most of the money was used for Supplies and Services, but there was a small credit under the Purchase of Fixed Assets listing. Could you please explain what that money was used for?

MR. WEISS: I would refer it to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Julian Nowicki.

MR. NOWICKI: Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman, the money is used at the Percy Page Centre, where we provide administrative services to provincial sport and recreation associations. Specifically, we use the revolving account to provide printing services for associations, and we charge the associations on a cost-recovery basis. That is the basis of that particular revolving account.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Could you also explain exactly what a statutory appropriation is and in what circumstances one might be used?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Nowicki will continue with the response.

MR. NOWICKI: That is basically, Mr. Chairman, an advance to buy materials, and then the objective of the printing centre at the Percy Page Centre would be to recover the advance over the

course of the year or, in some cases, two or three years to make it a zero proposition so it's total cost recovery.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, if I might supplement to make sure the hon. members are aware that with the hundred and some provincial recreation associations, of the 40-some that operate out of the Percy Page Centre, what we've endeavoured to do is to provide ongoing services. It sometimes means having to purchase supplies and services — for example, as Mr. Nowicki has outlined, for the printing press itself — to accommodate and give this service ongoing for the 12-month year to these associations. What we do then is: as the goods are used and services provided to those associations, they're billed for it, and then in turn that's recoverable. But we up front, as a government, have to put in the supplies to accommodate these individual needs for the ongoing year.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, did you have another supplementary?

The Member for Chinook.

MRS. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, my question has to do with sources of revenue. On page 20.7 the amount of revenue generated by Fees, Permits and Licences increased quite substantially from the previous year's figures. I am wondering if this increase in revenue is due to an increase in charges or an increase of numbers of persons purchasing these items.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I'd ask Mr. Dave Rehill to respond. But before he does, I would indicate that all hon. members should be aware that yes, there was an increase in fees, and as I've indicated in my opening remarks, there was an increase in the number of users. But there are some specifics that should be related to, and I'd ask Mr. Rehill to respond. As well, it should be remembered that the general funds that are brought forth do not flow directly through to the department but flow into general revenue, so that's part of our overall contribution in most cases.

Mr. Rehill.

MR. REHILL: Yes. From the information I have available at this point, it would appear that the majority of the fee increases relate to Kananaskis Country and increased activity in Kananaskis Country. Total Kananaskis Country fees, licences, and permits for the year in question were \$624,000, which was an increase over the previous year.

MRS. McCLELLAN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A supplementary?
Member for Bow Valley.

MR. MUSGROVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in volume 2 on page 20.5, and it's on vote 2.2.3, Community/Municipal Grants. I noticed that this was underexpended by approximately \$1.6 million. Is there some significance to that?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I'd ask Assistant Deputy Minister Julian Nowicki to respond, but I would want to alert the hon. Member for Bow Valley that they're not funds he could have for his constituency, if that's what he was looking for.

MR. NOWICKI: Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the underexpenditure involves two classes of grants. One is the community recreation/cultural grant program. This is a per capita grant program, so we budget on a per capita basis, the assumption being that all municipalities will apply for their grants. In this particular year not all municipalities applied for their grant, and consequently we ran a surplus in the CRC program. It also involves another class of grants, the urban parks grant program, and also the municipal recreation areas grant program. This involves the operating dollars under that grant program. If the municipalities or groups that are building these parks or sites do not expend all their capital grant, consequently we have some of the operating grant left over. So because of those two particular grants, we had such a surplus.

MR. MUSGROVE: Great. Also, in vote 2.1.2, Program Management, I noticed that that one was overexpended about \$40,000. Could we have an explanation for that?

MR. WEISS: Please continue, Mr. Nowicki.

MR. NOWICKI: You're referring to the . . .

MR. MUSGROVE: Vote 2.1.2.

MR. NOWICKI: Yes. Once again that involved the payment of the position I spoke to earlier, the contract position we had to carry over for four or five months.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Another supplementary?
Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

MR. MITCHELL: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer the minister and his staff to the Alberta Sport Council's statement of revenue and expenditure, page 5.130 in volume 1 of the public accounts. I am particularly interested in the Western Canada Lottery Foundation grant of \$6.6 million in '87 and \$5.4 million in '86. I wonder whether the minister could indicate to us how the size of that allocation is determined. Does he sit down with the minister of career development? Does he sit down with the Western Canada Lottery Foundation? How is this figure picked?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Mr. Mal Clewes to respond. But first of all, I'd like to indicate to the Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark that it isn't just picked; it's under procedure. Of course, it's significant and a very, very good question that should be responded to, and I'd ask Mal to respond directly.

MR. CLEWES: Thank you, Mr. Minister. This money was provided to the Alberta Sport Council as a result of the licence with the corporation, which was an arrangement made for a five-year period based on a number of specific programs identified by the Sport Council. That is the total that we were fortunate to receive from the lottery corporation.

MR. WEISS: Could I just supplement that, Mr. Chairman? I think in fairness the onus or responsibility should come back. As a member of cabinet, there was a cabinet decision under the Act that we originally set up that that would be the amount of moneys allocated. There had been no change for several years; I believe it's about four since its inception. But just recently, if the hon. member is aware, we made the announcement that

there was some \$2.485 million, close to \$2.5 million, increased expenditures to accommodate to a 9.1 level of funding to the Alberta Sport Council. Specifically, the programs were then laid out between myself and the Alberta Sport Council, but the amount of funds were approved by cabinet and by not just the Minister of Career Development and Employment.

MR. MITCHELL: So that's the one way. The other way is that once the amount has been determined, it has to be allocated. Who in the department specifically makes the decision as to what groups will receive portions of that \$6.6 million?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's very important, and I would like to go on at some length. But I think in fairness — because I've said before that I'm going to try to control my remarks to allow those that are accountable and to show that they, too, are involved in the decision-making process and report through and to the ministry as well. But Dr. Barry Mitchelson, as well as being the deputy minister, is a member of the Alberta Sport Council and on the board of directors. I'd ask him to respond, because I think it's very important that you would understand the full working mechanisms of the Sport Council.

DR. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Each time there has been increased funding coming to the ministry through lotteries, each of the requests has been supported through program proposals that have been developed in concert between senior management of the ministry. In the case of the Sport Council, it would be the senior managers of the Sport Council working with the department. I think that is critically important, because one of the things we've striven for from the very beginning is to ensure that there is not a duplication or overlap in funding. There's not, and I think we're proud to say there is not. So before additional dollars are considered, program proposals are there. There are program statements for everything that is provided through either of the two Crown corporations.

The actual decisions of disbursements, once the increased dollars are provided to either of the two agencies — budgets against program statements are brought to the board for ratification. And if you review the legislation, that authority is contained in the legislation for the two Crown corporations: the creation of a board, the responsibilities and roles of the board. So annually budgets are reviewed against programs. The board for either the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation or the Sport Council review those budgets, approve the budgets, or modify the budgets and approve them. It's a process that, from my perspective, falls within the responsibilities of the board as given to them through legislation. The expenditures and the authorization of expenditures is carried out, and the responsibility is to the board and by the board.

MR. WEISS: I would like to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that it's a joint decision; it is not an individual minister's decision.

MR. MITCHELL: Will Bill 10, that's just recently been discussed in the Legislature, change the manner in which the allocation of lottery funds through the Sport Council will be undertaken in any way? Will it make it more similar to the manner in which the rest of the department's budget is approved and allocated? And are staff members uneasy about the distinction, if it isn't more similar?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That really doesn't relate to pub-

lic accounts, but if the minister cares to answer, he may or may not.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to respond, in all fairness to the Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark. Clearly and positively, there is no bearing or relationship as far as Bill 10 and the working responsibilities of the Alberta Sport Council under their Act. Bill 10 has no relationship as far as how they may or may not access funds or what they may do. They go out and have a job to do to get the biggest bang for their buck and deliver the best programs they can, and Bill 10 has just no relationship whatsoever to them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member for Edmonton-Kingsway.

MR. McEACHERN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question I wanted to ask was related to page 20.3 of volume 2 of the accounts. I notice that if you look at each category of the votes 1 through 5, in each case in the first vote it is on Salaries, Wages and Employee Benefits, that sort of thing. In each case they came in under budget. I'm wondering if that was related to the privatization the minister mentioned. Because, you know, you can lay off department people if you hire other companies or corporations to do the job, and then the money just gets spent somewhere else probably. I wonder if that was the case.

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would ask to be supplemented as well by Dr. Barry Mitchelson and others. First, I'd comment that we have not severely impacted on the manpower component side of it to create an overall reduction. What we've gone through is normal attrition, those under there that took the early retirement program, and in all cases we used what would be called the fairness approach. Nobody was fired or terminated because of a job redundancy that way. We've even relocated people within the department where we felt there were areas that under private contractual services could be handled.

The privatization of the park services itself means that in cases where we as a department hired people — perhaps under maintenance for cleaning of washrooms and emptying of facilities and cutting grass and so forth, work like that — that work is now contracted out. Those were what were called summer students in most cases. The contractor has sat down with the department in those few instances, and we were able to say: "Well, look, here are the people we've employed, and we thought they were good. Would you give them the opportunity?" And in most cases, they've been able to have good working relationships. So it wasn't as a result of any full-time parks people or personnel. I hope they'd look objectively at the reduction where we indicated from some 585 to 562. Those are realistic levels to achieve, and not just paring off and saying, "Hey, we can get rid of a hundred people just to meet an objective." No way, to the hon. member, and I'd like to assure him of that.

Dr. Barry Mitchelson, perhaps you'd like to supplement that.

DR. MITCHELSON: I'm not sure I understood the question, Mr. Chairman. If it could be restated, I might be able to . . .

MR. McEACHERN: I just merely suggested that in each of the five votes some of the savings in salaries and expenses, wages and benefits for departmental people might very well show up in other places by contracting out to private people, that maybe it's

only a paper saving on this category and it ends up showing up somewhere else. I thought the minister did a fairly good job of answering it, actually.

MR. WEISS: Thank you.

MR. McEACHERN: The second question is one that I've been expecting somebody else would ask, but the Auditor General said in recommendations 33 and 34 in the Auditor's statement that both the Sport Council and the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation do not have — I'll get his wording rather than use my own — "within reasonable limits of cost, review a sample of expenditures to . . ." No, I'm reading the wrong place here. Anyway, neither organization has an accounting procedure in place that is sufficient to show whether the grant funding has been used for the purposes intended. So he did say that there were some moves being made to correct that, but I would like to know from the minister if that has proceeded. What's happening with that? Do they now account in a manner that is acceptable?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the question; it's very fair. I'm not saying that we don't disagree with the Auditor General. We have the opportunity as well to review it. I have met with the both Crown agencies, and in our management meetings we've discussed it in great detail. I think we have implemented a procedure to be in place. And specifically because the responsibility was then asked to be coordinated through the deputy minister, Dr. Barry Mitchelson, I'd ask Dr. Barry Mitchelson to comment and to update you to that.

MR. McEACHERN: I'd ask the Auditor General also to supplement in answering this question.

MR. WEISS: Certainly.

MR. SALMON: Well, in the case of the question that the hon. member has raised, it's a case of we have not been finalizing yet the current year's audit. We've had assurance from the department that they are moving ahead with the expectations, but we have not had the chance to fully examine them as yet.

MRS. McCLELLAN: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I had a question on that, and I don't know whether you'd like . . . I understood that our supplemental questions should apply to the vote we were discussing. If we've changed that, I wonder if I could just ask a very quick question on that particular point rather than raise it later.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Well, we've been giving quite a bit of latitude on questions. Actually, basically three questions. We call it one question and two supplementaries, but it ends up . . . If the committee's in agreement, we'll make an exception in this particular case only.

MRS. McCLELLAN: I'll try to be very brief. In my experience previous to this experience the auditing process, particularly through parks, recreation, and wildlife, has been very stringent with the people applying, and in fact those of us in the community might think overly stringent. I would like to ask the Auditor General if that is the area — I couldn't understand whether it was that part of the accounting or whether it was back within the jurisdiction. Because from the community point of

view they are very stringent on accounting, on how those funds are expended. And I have pages of documentation that we had to do for those.

MR. SALMON: Within the guidelines that the organizations have, Mr. Chairman, they have indicated that they would want to do this themselves, to determine whether or not they are sure that the funds have been spent where they were intended to be spent. It's really an internal working within their own organizations as to how they want to approach that problem and not the individual organizations themselves.

DR. MITCHELSON: Mr. Chairman, I think we're talking about two things. We talked about this last year as well. You can have a financial statement and/or audited statement, and you can also have program evaluation. I'm quite satisfied, as it would relate to both the staff within the department and the staff of the two Crown corporations, that they have annual meetings with the associations that I would term program evaluations. In other words, there is an accounting saying, "This is what we said we were going to do in a program, and this is what we did."

The area where we have been cited would be from a financial perspective, and I have always believed that the Auditor General has responsibility for financial expenditures and that they can be determined. I think what we are in — and we are going to resolve it — is a definitional thing of a financial statement year-end versus an audited statement year-end. We're having some discussions on that, and I think it will be able to be mutually resolved both between the department, the Crown agencies, and the Auditor General.

But more importantly from my perspective, what the organizations say they're going to do and how they perform those responsibilities by actually doing through programs I think are being done very well. And from my discussions with the chairmen of the two Crown corporations, they're quite satisfied as well.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member for Chinook, I know your name is further down the list to get back in. If you have further supplementaries, you could get in at that time.

MRS. McCLELLAN: That's fine.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Also, hon. Member for Bow Valley, your name is down there.

They're trying to use your supplementaries up, Mr. McEachern. You have one more supplementary, and we won't call that last one one of your supplementaries.

MR. McEACHERN: Thank you. My last question relates to trying to go through the supplementary information here and sort out . . . I guess I was looking to see if the department had spent any money — what one might say is inappropriately. I go through, and I find things like Recreation and Parks has put \$5,000 into the Pioneer Threshermans Association at Triangle.

MR. WEISS: I'm sorry; I can't hear that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McEACHERN: Can't hear it? Oh. Well, actually I'll move up closer to the mike; sorry.

I was just sort of reading through these pages a bit and I was finding things like Recreation and Parks has put money into the Pioneer Threshermans Association at Triangle. Here's another

one: Pioneer Museum Society of Grande Prairie, Pioneer Agricultural Society, and so on. In most cases I felt pretty good about the money being expended, that it was to a group that I could support, although I have to admit I sort of raised a little question mark over my head at some golf courses and softball and a few things like that. But it is, after all, for recreation.

My question really is: how am I supposed to be able to tell . . . For instance, here's another one: Pie Association Partners in Edmonton, Recreation and Parks, \$5,653. How can I possibly tell if the department has spent some money on some organization — one was a chamber of commerce — if I've got to leaf through 400 pages to try to figure them all out? Is there any possible way that we could get a listing by your department by program so that we could see them in one place?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have difficulty in answering it, not that I'm trying to be evasive. There is a checks and balance system in the applications that come through for all funding, and we follow the system that's been implemented by public accounts and by the Auditor General. If the Auditor General were to say that we're not following that procedure or it should be changed or corrected, I would have to bow to his ruling on it. We only follow the system in place.

I certainly would hope there would be no funds going out improperly. That could well be . . . I'm not trying to make reference or insinuate that the member's making those allegations either. I appreciate that, to the Member for Edmonton-Kingsway. It's just that I would want to ensure as well that there would be that double check.

As he's aware, we, of course, through our recreation consultants, work very closely in the field with all the applications, with the municipalities. They process in through the department. I in turn personally sign all those that go out then. I'm not quite sure how we can change it.

MR. McEACHERN: Well, I guess I'm raising a problem that I have of: how do I check that out when I'm on Public Accounts if I have to go through 400 pages to find out? I raised that question here before, and actually this committee turned down the idea. I guess I'm trying to put pressure on ministers to put pressure on the Treasurer to do it right next time so we can get the information in a way that we can digest and that we can see what's going on.

MR. WEISS: I guess I would have to take it as . . .

MR. McEACHERN: Call it an advertisement for my idea.

MR. WEISS: It's something that would have to be changed and recommended by all, and it's something I will take under advisement and treat it that way.

MR. McEACHERN: Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Olds-Didsbury.

MR. BRASSARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I guess I'm still in awe of the Olympic Winter Games. You touched on it in your overview, Mr. Minister, and I thank you very much. But on page 20.2, where you identify the support to the Winter Games, reference is made that Operations specifically had \$71,000 unexpended. It seemed like an odd amount in Operations. Could you just identify how these savings were realized?

MR. WEISS: Well, certainly, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased a question would come in relation to the Olympics and would ask Ms Sherri Thorsen to respond. She has been responsible for this facet of it from day one, and I appreciate the question, through to the member.

MS THORSEN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, the operational role of the Olympic Secretariat related primarily to attempting to offer further assistance that was not financially committed to the Olympic Organizing Committee and other people that were involved with the program. Basically, we had one position that co-ordinated the operational side, and it also supported the participation by the government in the XV Olympic Winter Games. The excess funds that were in that budget that were unexpended related to hosting and travel, as additional funds were put in each year for hosting and travel in the event that any of our ministers or senior officials were required to participate in some pre-Olympics activities or other international sporting events. But as it turned out, aside from some participation at Sarajevo in 1984 we did not feel there was anything further required up until the 1988 Olympic Winter Games.

MR. BRASSARD: Could I just elaborate on what I see as a general involvement and co-operation by a lot of people that contributed to these games? Could the minister or perhaps you, Sherri, give us any information on how much money was saved by the use of volunteers in the Olympics? It must have been fantastic.

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps Ms Thorsen would like to add to it. But if one were to just say there were 20,000-plus volunteers and to accumulate the number of hours and multiply by an average wage of \$5 to \$10, the amount would be astronomical. We did do a quick calculation a year ago on a smaller games project, and that was the Alberta Summer Games that took place in the county of Strathcona. It was estimated that the individual savings for some 2,500 — which is a smaller number, of course, than worked through the Winter Olympics. But for those 2,500 volunteers it was estimated that there were savings of some \$682,000, which is a terrific amount. The games would not have been possible if the taxpayers had to pick up that extra cost. Perhaps Ms Thorsen would like to add to it as well.

MS THORSEN: Mr. Minister and Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware that anyone has done any estimates on how much money might have been saved, but I'm sure it did contribute significantly to the surplus that remained at the conclusion of the games. There were upwards of 6,000 volunteers that were used on an ongoing basis in the five-year period leading up to the games. Then it geared up to 10,000 that were involved. When the minister refers to the 20,000, we're also talking about people who volunteered to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies on a volunteer basis. So I think the number would be substantial, but I don't think it's been quantified.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Barry Mitchelson would like to supplement that as well, being a board member of the Olympic Organizing Committee.

DR. MITCHELSON: In the media it was reported the last two or three days — and from my perspective it's a statistic that is one to be proud of — it was indicated that on a per capita basis,

considering each province and territory in Canada, we have the highest volunteerism rate in Canada. I think it was demonstrated in the games, but that's only one example. That statistic has not varied significantly during the last five years. In other words, it translates to me that we have a province that cares, and we have a province of people who demonstrate their caring through volunteering.

MR. BRASSARD: Thank you. I think the government is to be complimented, because I think they took a very strong initiative in encouraging the volunteer participation.

I have one final question, Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Could you comment on just what the province's final, total financial commitment was to the games?

MR. WEISS: Well, certainly, Mr. Chairman. I would ask Ms Thorsen once again to supplement. But as reported previously in my estimates in the Assembly, the total capital infrastructure dollars amounted to some \$129 million. This was what the province's contribution to the games involved in the development of the Canmore Nordic Centre, Nakiska at Mount Allan and, of course, the various other sides of it as related in my opening remarks, with McMahon Stadium and the student housing and residence at the university complex and others. The federal government, of course, were very major on the funding side of it, as well as the city of Calgary. As far as our overall operations costs, those have been broken down here into the public accounts and for your review now.

Ms Thorsen, I don't know if you wanted to add to it or any specific area you'd just wish to comment on as it relates to expenditures.

MS THORSEN: Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman, I think the point of note in this matter is the \$129 million that the minister refers to for capital and operating expenditures was budgeted in 1984-85 dollars and has never been indexed. All projects were delivered within that budget. Further to that, it does not include the administrative and support costs that were expended through the Olympic Secretariat in terms of our overall co-ordination/administration role, our technical support projects — which we consider the environmental review program, the public relations and communications program, historical resources, and the weather monitoring program that we undertook — as well as our operational role. If you add those costs, I think you would be looking at a maximum of a further \$4 million. So if you want to look at the administrative, the support, the capital, and the operating, I think the total would be in the order of \$133 million. It's well within the budget that was established in '84-85.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I want once again to come back in just to reconfirm one thing. Of the \$133 million, if that were the figure to be used, it should be remembered that some \$127 million of infrastructure in an ongoing legacy is in place for the future use of all Albertans. I know that many members have taken the opportunity to speak, such as the motion that was before the House by the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon. And others who spoke to that I'm sure are supportive of the overall commitment and expenditure. I'm not trying to put them in a compromising position, just to understand that those are dollars that are in place, and they're certainly accountable for. It's not like we can say, "Well gee, we spent \$127 million and we've got nothing left to show." We have a legacy, a legacy that's there for years and years to come.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Westlock-Sturgeon.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've lost my voice, but I'll try. A politician without a voice is like an undertaker with a nervous giggle. But the first question I'd like to ask is probably under vote 2. Is there any planning or any intention of doing any development in the Sturgeon River valley, particularly centred between Gibbons and St. Albert? I've had a lot of trouble with that, as you know, the last couple of years. It gets lost or forgotten or something. But it is handy to Edmonton; it is a beautiful area, and . . .

MR. DOWNEY: A point of order, Mr. Chairman. I'm having a hard time seeing how that relates to these estimates.

MR. TAYLOR: It would be whether or not there's any planning or any . . . [interjection] He's trying to kill me with kindness. Any costs towards that in there?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could respond that while it certainly has affected the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon's voice, it hasn't affected his memory and his eyesight. Perhaps he sees it under Planning, where I couldn't quite see it. I would indicate that while it is in — we're dealing with '86-87. Yes, under consideration is a development in the hon. member's area that he's referred to. I haven't finalized a decision. I'm still evaluating it and hopefully will be able to respond back to it. I recognize the need and the importance of it and would like the opportunity to comment further on it to the member. It certainly is one that I'm aware of.

MR. TAYLOR: My second one is still in the field of planning, and that is with respect to a Kananaskis north in any of these votes, 2 or 3. Is there any segment that was spent in planning for a Kananaskis north of some sort?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess in the Planning there — I can't quite see it again, but I'll look very closely, or try. If the hon. member would have the opportunity to refer to *Hansard* — and I go by date — if my memory recall is right, May 16, I believe pages 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089 would make reference to my comments. If the hon. member would have the opportunity to review that, he would see at that time the commitment I have made as well as the overall concerns in relation to the north. I first of all must say that I appreciate the member's views, support, and his bringing me once again and keeping the idea forth amongst all hon. members, because I hope we'd see a day that we would need that support, but ask the hon. member if he has an opportunity to review *Hansard* of May 16.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. member could ask those questions in Public Accounts in about four years; you will probably get your answer, and it would be more appropriate and in order. So could I have your third supplementary?

MR. TAYLOR: I want to know whether he's doing anything now about spending it down the road.

MR. WEISS: That's in the plans.

MR. TAYLOR: I'll ask you a question you can answer, then. How much weight did you lose in Sneaker Week?

MR. WEISS: Well, I'm very pleased to report that I lost 10 and a half pounds, but I starved myself. My wife is away, and I ate grapefruit, orange juice, and I drank lots of liquids. I'm going to try it for another week, but it's sure tough.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think that's three supplementaries, hon. member, and I think we'll give your voice a rest.

Hon. Member for Cardston.

MR. WEISS: It didn't affect my voice, though, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADY: I have a question. Again it's on page 20.5; the reference number is 2.4.3. There's some figures there relating to the Percy Page Administration Centre. I understand that the original centre was located in St. Albert, and two annexes located on 149 Street and 82 Avenue have recently been consolidated and now occupy only one facility. I noticed that there's an overexpenditure of in excess of \$53,000 on this project. Could you explain why the overspending there?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for his question. It's certainly important and relative. As he's indicated in his remarks, we have melded the three facilities into one. It's working very well. It's a first-class facility, and I'd ask the assistant deputy minister once again, Julian Nowicki, to respond directly to the question with specifics.

MR. NOWICKI: Thank you, Mr. Minister and Mr. Chairman. In June of '85 we had a major reorganization of the division. We put more resources into the Percy Page Centre, and this was reflected in the 1986-87 budget. During the course of the year we transferred in even more resources to provide the services to the provincial sport and recreation associations. So it's an area that we have strengthened because we're strengthening the volunteer component in the sport and recreation associations, and that is why we had the overexpenditure.

MR. ADY: Okay. A supplementary. I understand that a number of sport and recreation associations take advantage of this facility. Could you tell the committee what type of associations these are and how many are occupying the centre currently so we could get an idea of its usage?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I would welcome that opportunity, but if I were to speak on it, I would spend all morning because I'm just so excited and pleased about what we're doing in that area, in particular with regards to the associations themselves. I'd ask the assistant deputy minister to respond as well. But I would also, then, extend an invitation to all hon. members of the committee that perhaps if they had a few minutes on a morning or an afternoon, to drive over to the centre and take the opportunity to go in and see and walk around and visit and share the unique open-air experience with some of the associations. Ask them personally: "Hey, what do you get out of here? Do you like it? And what's happening?" I think that's the best testimonial. Don't ask me; I'm biased. But the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Nowicki, may wish to respond.

MR. NOWICKI: We fund currently 114 sport and recreation associations. Not all of these associations, of course, reside in the centre, but they are eligible to reside in the centre. We have somewhere in the order of 40 that are permanent residents, and then the centre provides services to those that are not residents

at the centre. They vary from the large provincial sport-governing bodies such as the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association, the Alberta Soccer Association, the Alberta Baseball Association, and so on, to the much smaller groups that involve 1,000 or 2,000 members throughout the province such as the free balloonists or whatever. But it is a service that's only available to recognized sport and recreation associations through our grant program.

MR. ADY: Thank you. You've given me an outline of some of the services that are provided there, and I guess the services are great. The question that comes to my mind, though: is this type of facility the most cost-efficient method of achieving these services?

MR. WEISS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I could conclude it by saying that I guess the invitation to go and see would be the best thing to do, because I believe that it is. I believe the associations recognize that. They're working together collectively. We're providing a service that is comparable anywhere in Canada and in all probability I could go as far as to say North America. If one were to see how they work in-house, I think you'd have a better appreciation and understanding of it. Once again, I'm sorry I have to say that I am biased, but it's truly a tremendous facility. Only if you're there and can share it would you understand the experience that is being delivered to those agencies and for them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member for Stettler.

MR. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of my questions have been answered. In view of the hour, I move that we adjourn.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a motion for adjournment, but we have other things here.

I might mention that we're now on the second round of questions and we have one, two, three, four, five, six that want to get back in, and in the three minutes left they would not have that opportunity. But I know that the minister's door is always open, and you can certainly get your answer to your questions. So before we entertain the move for adjournment, I would like to thank the minister and his officials for coming here and for the excellent co-operation and the answers they gave us. We appreciate that very much, Mr. Minister.

MR. WEISS: I would like to thank all hon. members for their participation and the opportunity to appear before the committee, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Members of the Committee, the next meeting is next Wednesday, June 8th, at 10 a.m., when the hon. Mr. Horsman, Attorney General and Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs will be here.

MR. McEACHERN: Before we move for adjournment, can I make a suggestion? If an hon. member wishes to forgo his questions, as long as the hour is not 11:30 then he should do that as quickly and quietly as possible and let the next person on the list ask questions rather than move adjournment. It seems to me our time is short enough, and I don't see any reason why we should cut it short unless every member has had a chance to ask every question they can possibly ask. So I would appreciate it if

we didn't get these early adjournment motions when our time is already too short.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have a good point, hon. member. However, it was my understanding that the Member for Stettler said he had questions, but because of the hour he adjourned. So, in the three minutes he would have probably . . .

MR. McEACHERN: If he didn't ask them, then why couldn't the next person on the list be offered that opportunity?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That could be. Just to point out that the list goes: Calgary-McCall, Edmonton-Avonmore, Bow Valley, Ponoka-Rimbey, Edmonton-Meadowlark, and Edmonton-Kingsway. The next one would have been Calgary-McCall, and so on.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman, say it was 11:10 and there were another 15 people waiting to ask. We could never get through to the end of that. Is that a reason to authorize cutting the committee off early? We don't have enough time to review departments in any event, and we're certainly not reviewing all departments, so three minutes is of some premium. I know it may seem that it isn't. I have two . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, that's a hypothetical question that wouldn't be entertained by any Chair. It was a very realistic position of the Member for Stettler. He had questions; he indicated that he had questions. But because of the time he knew he could not get the answers to them, so he adjourned rather than start into his questions and take our time.

MR. MITCHELL: I have one that requires a yes or no answer. That could be done in three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name is fifth on the list, hon. member.

MR. MITCHELL: I have two questions I would like to ask, and maybe they would constitute motions. In fact, I will make a motion. I wonder whether we can move . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, point of order. There is a motion on the floor. Can we call the question?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What was your question, hon. member?

MR. MITCHELL: I would move that we ask the Attorney General to submit in writing several days ahead any opening comments that he might otherwise be anticipating making next week so that we could review them before the meeting and then just commence questions immediately.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Have we a seconder? All right. It has been moved and seconded that ministers — and I take it you're setting this as a precedent, too — appearing before us not have an overview but give you a written overview prior to that. All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

We will now have the move for adjournment.

MR. MITCHELL: I have another motion. I would move . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, point of order. I moved adjournment. It was really out of order to take a vote on that last motion. There's a motion on the floor. There can only be one on the floor at a time. I move that the question be called for adjournment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, all members, the move for adjournment has come. We are now past our allotted hour, and I accept the move for adjournment. All those in favour?

MR. McEACHERN: You didn't accept the adjournment motion a minute ago. You still . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, that was prior to 11:30. It is now past our allotted time. We now stand adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 11:32 a.m.]

