

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta**Title: **Tuesday, April 16, 1991**

8:00 p.m.

Date: 91/04/16

head: **Committee of Supply**

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Good evening, everyone. I'd ask that the committee please come to order.

head: **Main Estimates 1991-92****Culture and Multiculturalism**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would invite the hon. minister, followed by the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission, to make opening statements.

MR. MAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm, as usual, glad to be here tonight to discuss the estimates of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. MAIN: Agreed. If we're ready for the question now, we can all get home in time to watch what everybody really wants to be doing, which is finding out the result of a great cultural event, which of course is related to opera because everybody is waiting for the fat lady to sing tonight. She will be in fact singing for, I believe, the team represented by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. But enough of that.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be standing here tonight to discuss the estimates of this department. We've got a very, very proud record as a government on our cultural initiatives that are, I don't hesitate to say, world famous. Our interpretive centres and museums are world regarded as the finest facilities of their type. We have a very, very strong arts community that's been supported for many, many years by the efforts of the government not only from the tax side but also from the lottery-based initiatives. Our leadership on issues relating to diversity in our population is unparalleled anywhere in this country.

We're going to be talking tonight about three main areas of responsibility in our department. I want to talk a little bit about multiculturalism and the new policy thrust we're taking there. My colleague the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission will speak on that a little later in some specific detail. I want to talk about our cultural development branch and the new initiatives we're taking in the area of arts funding by consolidating our support into one area that provides for administrative streamlining, efficiencies on grant applications, and will be providing over the course of the next many number of years a very, very strong level of support in all areas of the arts. Then I want to talk about the historic resources division, the area that is charged with collecting, interpreting the history of this great province and our efforts on the fiscal side with the introduction of admission fees that are going to allow us to continue to offer that great, great experience to our many visitors.

Mr. Chairman, we have had, of course, to deal with the fiscal reality of 1991-1992. You heard a balanced budget presented in this Chamber a week or 10 days ago by the Treasurer. He talked about key spending in areas of priority in Health, Education, social services, Environment and talked about some of the other departments that had taken cuts in their allocation

of funds continuing to provide strong service but realizing that cuts in spending have to come from somewhere. Our department has taken our share – some would suggest more than our share – of cuts, but we're going to continue to be able to do what we're mandated to do in a fine fashion, continue to provide leadership and an example for others to follow in that area.

We had to lay off some personnel. That's unfortunate. Nobody likes to be in a position to have to tell people that they won't have jobs to come to any more, but in the current reality it had to happen. There were 28 net position abolishments in our department. That began with 50.5 FTEs, full-time equivalents, a bookkeeping entry as opposed to a personnel entry. But we've added in 12 more positions by hiring cashiers and cashier supervisors to deal with the collection of fees. What it boils down to, Mr. Chairman, are 28 positions that have been abolished, but already, of those positions and the people involved in them, seven have been redeployed, many within our own department, others within other departments of government, and I expect there will be others in the days ahead.

To accommodate the layoffs and to accommodate the realities of what we were facing, there have been major reorganizations in the way we do our business. The historic resources division has been reorganized into subject areas. Some people have suggested that we have abolished, abandoned, cut, disembowelled, and completely eliminated the services that we've been providing. That's absolutely false. Absolutely false. We are continuing to do all the things that the legislation mandates that our department do; we're just doing it a little differently, and there's been some reorganization. We've assigned subject areas to different areas in the department. Palaeontology, our study of dinosaur bones for which we're world famous, of course, is concentrated in the Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller. Natural history, archaeology, the work done by the Archaeological Survey is handled now in the Provincial Museum of Alberta here in the city of Edmonton. Our historic sites branch, which operates and runs and takes general charge of the various historic sites, is involved now in studying and collecting and curating and looking after the settlement history of the post-European period of time in Alberta's history and also our ongoing planning for the future.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sure there will be questions – specific, detailed, minute questions – relating to people, places, and their jobs that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands will want to discuss, and I'll be more than glad to discuss the specifics of some questions that she raised with me in correspondence. I would say at the outset in my remarks that most of what she has said is based on misinformation, half-truths or less, and distortions in actual fact of what's happening, but we'll get into that a little later on. I've given her the assurance that I'm going to answer all the questions, and I'm more than prepared to. You should know, colleagues, that there are 18 questions, and it's going to take a long, long, long time to get through them all. Golly, I'm not sure if everybody wants to spend – but we will. Nevertheless, we will. I just want everybody to understand where the blame for this long, long process goes.

We've also, Mr. Chairman, done some reorganization on the arts side. There are two main components to the reorganization. One involves the creation of what I believe is going to be a landmark organization for arts funding and a model that will be looked at by many, many jurisdictions, and that's our new Alberta foundation for the arts. We're debating the legislation right now in this session. That will have the effect of consolidating our lottery support from three existing foundations: funding that came directly from the lottery fund to proponents and grants that used to appear in the department's estimates.

As you look through the department estimates book, you'll see various grant entries with big reductions, 70 percent, in some cases 100 percent. Those dollars do disappear in our budget. You could make the case, if you just took half the information, that we have cut our support, but in actual fact every dollar that disappears from a grant in the budget reappears in the new foundation, replaced dollar for dollar, penny for penny, by lottery dollars.

Corresponding with the change in the foundation lottery funding is a change in the way the department, funded through the General Revenue Fund, operates. It used to be organized along disciplinary lines. There was a dance branch, a theatre branch, a visual arts branch, a film branch, and so on. Now we're organized along functional lines so that we deal in marketing, in audience development, in organizational support, in cultural literacy, in government services, in cultural industries: horizontally organized, Mr. Chairman, to give us a stronger feel right through the entire arts community. I have often used the example of someone wanting to write and publish a book on performance art who in the past would be unsure of where to go. Is this a literary project? Is this an art project? Is this a performing arts project? Now the way we're organized, both on the funding side and on the expertise/support/consultative side, we come to one window: we come to the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism for advice and expertise, and we go to foundation for the arts for dollars. The expertise is the staff of the funding. It's a system that's going to work just beautifully and provide excellent, outstanding service to the arts community.

#### 8:10

Another major, important ingredient in what we do is the library side. Mr. Chairman, I have been fighting since I was assigned to this portfolio by the Premier to re-establish a funding link for libraries so they could know that they were not being treated differently, they were not being treated apart, but they were tied in with the major importance we give to grants to municipalities, for example. For the last two years grants to libraries have mirrored exactly the increase in grants that have been given to municipalities: 3 percent last year, and this year, as announced by the Treasurer, 2 and a half percent, which is the same as were granted to municipalities. It shows the commitment of the government to libraries.

In addition to that is the Northern Lights library system, which I stood here a year ago talking about, and I made the commitment – and you can check back in *Hansard* – that when new money was available, it would go to the Northern Lights system. Mr. Chairman, the new money is available; it's going to the Northern Lights system. The operating dollars are there. [some applause] The members from Bonnyville, from Redwater-Andrew, St. Paul – West-Yellowhead is somehow lost in the map – I thank you for the applause nonetheless. It's happening. We're arranging for the establishment money. It's on its way. The capital money will be a matter for the library board to deal with the lotteries division on. But the commitment to library systems exists. It was committed to here, and it's being followed through on.

On the multiculturalism side, the other major area of responsibility this department has, we're taking a bold new policy initiative. This is the result of hearings that were held in '88, a report prepared in '89, legislation passed in '90, and a multiculturalism action plan introduced and being acted upon and being discussed now. Mr. Chairman, this government on the multiculturalism side is miles and years ahead of anyone else on

this issue. We are so far down the road to doing what people want us to do, what needs to be done on the multiculturalism side, that from what I've seen in other jurisdictions, and certainly on the federal level, it's going to take them years to catch up, and they just cannot.

We're broadening the base. Multiculturalism historically has been a program, an area of responsibility defined and aimed at ethnic groups. Mr. Chairman, it's my firm, solid belief that multiculturalism is a reality in Alberta. We as Albertans, whether we've been here for five generations or five minutes, are impacted in one way or another by the fact that our population is diverse, and when we all begin to understand that and get a grasp of what our population base is today and what it's going to be like out into the future, you can see that, broadly speaking, we have to react. That's the initiative that we've been taking. That's the direction that the commission is going. The direction and the focus and the underlying reasoning behind all our policies is to broaden the base and then work very, very hard to make sure that everybody has a chance to get in and to access and to take part and to participate and to be fully involved in what we are as a society.

Mr. Chairman, I know there are going to be questions, there are going to be other comments, and we're here tonight to answer every question and every issue relating to our entire budget estimates as fully as possibly can be. I've given you a bit of a broad outline on the main policy thrust, the main things reflected in the budget. I've just touched briefly on multiculturalism, and I would ask the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission, the hon. Member for Redwater-Andrew, to talk a little bit more about some of the policy specifics, the specific areas in which programs are being delivered, and offer members and colleagues some of the fine examples of how this is working.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Redwater-Andrew.

**MR. ZARUSKY:** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also just want to mention the good work of our Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism and the appreciation I have in working with him and on areas of multiculturalism, which are so important to our province. You can see our government's direction in heading this up with the ministry and then a commission which is chaired by an MLA. A fine group of individuals, 12 at this point, do represent the commission. I don't think I need to go into detail on that, because it had been outlined in our legislation last July on the setup. Indeed, it is working well. I also want to thank the staff here today that are in the gallery: the deputy minister, his staff, and indeed my staff from the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission. These are the people that do work hard for you, the Albertans that deserve this work that's being done.

I'll outline some of the highlights of what we're doing in multiculturalism today and hopefully answer some of the questions that the members of the opposition might have, because some of them maybe weren't too involved in areas of happenings or didn't attend the right ethnic community when they should have and maybe got the wrong information somewhere. So this is what I'm going to outline today.

Our objective is to ensure that each and every Albertan has "an equal opportunity to pursue his or her hopes and dreams." Hon. members, this is how this country and this province were built: by the visions and dreams of people that immigrated from many parts of the world. This is what this is made of. Mr. Chairman, we're going to do this in three distinct ways. One is

our awareness program. We're going to help people understand and appreciate our diversity and show them how that helps make us strong. The second point is access. We're going to help business, industry, organizations, and institutions better deal with culturally diverse clients and customers. The third one is participation. We're going to help cultural and racial minorities integrate and get involved with the mainstream of Alberta society.

As I said, I hope the opposition listens and listens closely as I go on, because I think some maybe missed some along the way. I know some were out of the country for a while and getting involved in other countries' politics. Whether that's going to bring any good to this province or not, I don't know. But some could have been missed out there, Mr. Chairman, so I'm going to bring it to the attention of some of them.

We've held two major provincial conferences. One was involving a cross section of young people to develop long-range programs for youth. The results of that October meeting at the Morley Indian reserve will be released soon. I'm sure just about every MLA in this Legislature had a young student, a person from their constituency attend, and there were news articles done on this. I know Lloydminster was well represented at this conference. The second one we did was a business leaders' conference or seminar, where more than 100 leading Alberta businesspeople and educators attended an information sharing conference on diversity issues. I can tell you that they came out of there very positive in some of the ways that this could fit into industry. I know from speaking to an executive from Esso Resources that he was very pleased to come there, because naturally Esso hires many people and needs this sort of help and assistance with mainly our new people coming into this province.

What we've also done is help the town of Provost develop ways to make their community more attractive to immigrants, investors, and others. Our consultants are having similar discussions with Hinton, Drumheller, and other communities. You'll all recall the incident that happened in Provost where something that was done beyond . . .

MRS. GAGNON: Do they have to have a Tory MLA?

MR. ZARUSKY: Your questions will be answered later. I'm sure it will be open to questions, and we'll deal with them one at a time, hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight.

We're also helping Edmonton's St. Michael's extended care and Misericordia hospital and Calgary's Foothills and Lougheed hospitals become more culturally sensitive to their patients' needs. We'll be getting results of this, which are being done now. We've also worked with native groups and ethnic minorities, like the Latin American community in Calgary's and Edmonton's Polish community, to help their members integrate into the mainstream of Alberta society.

**8:20**

Mr. Chairman, our staff were also involved in task forces and working groups within government key areas, like health, education, career development, so materials like textbooks and services like English as a Second Language courses reflect the needs of today's diverse society. I know that English as a Second Language is brought up many times in this Legislature. I can tell you – listen, members – that the Alberta government has put \$14 million into English as a Second Language in this province, and I think \$14 million is nothing to sneeze at. It's a large amount of money, and it is helping. If somebody's got some greater ideas, I hope to hear them here today. We are

working with school boards and others in this direction. I know we have a handle on it, and it's going to get better as time goes on.

School districts like Lethbridge have been assisted in developing skills for teachers so they may better teach students to live in culturally diverse societies. We've also changed the focus of our educational resource service in Calgary. It's now called the Institute for Managing Diversity. They'll be working within companies and institutions rather than acting as central training bases.

We're doing one more thing which is going to be different and unique for rural Alberta. Mobile vans will soon hit the road and appear at trade shows, fairs, rodeos, malls, and so on, talking to Albertans about the value and benefits of living in a culturally diverse society. Another area is books and films on what a culturally diverse society is all about, which will be finished next year. These will be made available to all schools and libraries in the province and used in workshops, seminars, and basically everywhere as a tool for learning. So you'll see that rural Alberta mainly will benefit from this.

I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that we know we can't do this alone, and that's why we are getting involved in partnership with ethnocultural groups, businesses, schools, and others – and I think the minister touched on this – going a little further than just the song and dance but including all of society in this province. This involvement will focus on supporting things that help Albertans integrate into the mainstream of our society. I think this support may include many things, from teaching citizens about their rights and privileges to helping businessmen understand the needs of a diverse work force. As you know, our work force is changing. Mr. Chairman, this includes cost-sharing and grant programs which will total more than 2 and a half million dollars this fiscal year. So you can see that the money is still there.

Although our division's administration and staffing budget has been reduced by 8.6 percent this year, our funding and resource commitment for multicultural programs will not change. Our contribution to this government's strong fiscal management policy of an 8.6 percent reduction in our administration and staffing budget has challenged the commission and its staff, and I can tell you that they are working hard to live within these bounds. I'm glad to report that we have met this challenge through some of the things that were outlined. As our action plan initiatives and programs are supported through lotto funds, our funding and resource commitment for multicultural programs will not change. Our level of funding to programs is still the same. It hasn't changed. It might go in a bit of a different direction, but it's all there.

Some of the things we did adjust is actually to compensate for our small manpower reduction. I know our staff is willing to fit in and work its way through and indeed help in any way they can to come in with the balanced budget that we've promised Albertans. These people are all Albertans. They indeed understand that. I'm confident that with our expanded commission, a new council which will be coming on stream, strong new partnerships, and staff in eight regional offices, we can accomplish our mission and carry our message of respect and acceptance across the province.

Mr. Chairman, with one more comment I think we'll probably open this up to questions. I can tell you, just on one point, that I've traveled all parts of this province in the last year, from north and south and east and west, and met with thousands and thousands of Albertans. They all tell us that we're in the right

direction. It's a very positive attitude out there. Albertans like what we're doing in multiculturalism.

If there are any questions on multiculturalism, I'd be more than pleased to answer them.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

MS BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'd like to propose to the committee this evening that, as the Minister for Culture and Multiculturalism and the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission have done, I split the time that I'm allocated, 30 minutes for any given speaker, with, in this instance, the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. Would the committee agree?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Does the committee agree with the proposal by Edmonton-Highlands? There is some precedence for this.

MR. WICKMAN: But the same would apply to this caucus too.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I didn't recognize you, hon. member.

Are you agreed with the request of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

Please proceed.

MS BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you members of the committee.

What does it say? Calgary one over Edmonton.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's 1-0.

MS BARRETT: It's 1-0 over Edmonton. Okay. Sorry; didn't mean to scare you Edmontonians.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's 3-1.

MS BARRETT: Oh. It's 3-1. I see. For whom?

MRS. GAGNON: Calgary.

MS BARRETT: For Calgary? The Member for Rocky Mountain House brought this little bit of luck in earlier.

Mr. Chairman, there is one person I know of who is not watching the hockey game tonight, aside from the members in the Assembly and of course the valued staff members in the gallery, and that's Catherine from the riding of Edmonton-Highlands that I'd like to say hello to. She's dropped down to watch the estimates tonight.

My first comment relates to the funding of the Northern Lights library system. I'm certainly happy that finally the money is being made available. But I would like to point out that after two independent recommendations that that library system be headquartered in Vegreville, with a little bullying by some certain Conservatives that motion was finally overturned a few weeks ago by the committee established to get that system under way, and it sounds to me like a lot of pressure was exerted. I

think that's really unfortunate. If an arm's-length committee decides that a certain town or a certain city is the best location, then for heaven's sake let them exercise their independence. Independence is something else I'm going to get back to tonight in these estimates.

I will go through several of the questions that I wrote to the minister on February 13, 1991, but before I do that, I want to make it well known to the committee tonight that when the minister replied, he didn't answer one single question. He said, "Ask me in estimates." Now the minister is saying that he's going to have to take up a long, long time of the committee tonight to answer those questions. Well, he could have answered them in writing as I had asked him to do, and I'm sorry that he didn't do that.

The questions that I wrote to him relate to the cuts at the Provincial Museum. Now, before I get to that, I want to point out to members of the committee that if you look on page 13 of element details, there's a 6.4 percent overall reduction in the funding going to Historical Resources Development. Now, it comes to about \$1.4 million. The minister in debate on second reading of Bill 14, Historical Resources Amendment Act, said that they were expecting to get about \$1.5 million from the new user fee system at the museums and historical facilities. I made the point that that's about the same amount of money that's been cut by the department.

#### 8:30

But let me make another point, Mr. Chairman, and that is that even with the user fees the cuts to the department and to the staff at the Provincial Museum will not be reversed. In other words, we're getting cuts and user fees and layoffs. So make no mistake, this is not a balanced sheet.

I was surprised to discover the Liberals in support of the Conservative's move to engage in user fees. I wonder where else they'll be supporting them, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we'll hear a little bit more tonight. I and my caucus colleagues stand firmly against the user fees that are going to be imposed at the museum and the historical facilities.

I was advised earlier that the British Columbia Provincial Museum instituted user fees a few years ago, and their visitation rate dropped by 25 percent. If one were able to conduct a socioeconomic study of those who have stopped coming, my guess is that you're going to find it is the lower income people who found the museum to be a cheap or free form of education and interest for themselves and for their children that will no longer be available without spending money. The minister said, "Well, you can get in for free on Tuesdays." Well, I remind the minister that Tuesdays tend to be school days and work days, and even the working poor, Mr. Chairman, go out to work on Tuesdays. So that is not an answer.

I point out also that for the most part our permanent exhibits at the Provincial Museum, situated in Edmonton, haven't changed very much in the last 20 years. You're going to need dollars if you want to attract people to look at additions or changes to the permanent exhibit, and that isn't happening. Not only that, but this very important tourist and educational facility is going to deter people from entering to see even the moving exhibits, just because of the user fees: totally counterproductive.

If you want \$1.5 million, may I suggest that you go to NovAtel, Magnesium Company of Canada, or any number of failed organizations or the one that was raised today in question period, Peace River Fertilizer, where the owners of the plant, probably already owing the Alberta taxpayers several million dollars, didn't even have to take out personal guarantees against

the loan they got for the company. If you want money, look at your own mismanagement and you'll find lots of money. My latest estimate is around \$600 million on failed companies alone.

Museums are supposed to be in service to society. They're supposed to be like an educational institution. We don't charge user fees at libraries, although I know that the minister talked about that last year. We shouldn't charge user fees, nor do we, at school for basic education, although we do for every other little ancillary event related to that. We have to understand that what's happened in the Provincial Museum cuts is basically the downsizing of the most interesting part, the part that people go to, which is the human history part. This is what museum-goers are interested in.

I talked to a friend of mine earlier today, and we were discussing the difference between natural history museums and human history museums. I was shocked a few months ago to be back at the British Museum to find that they charged money, and I said the only natural history museum I've ever been in was (a) no charge and (b) happened to be a bizarre fossil museum, around which walls were built, in Glasgow many years ago: just a bizarre formation of fossils of all descriptions. It's like one little section of the city got zapped and suddenly got fossilized. That was the only one I've ever been in. My friend was saying that she'd recently been in Washington. She was to 15 museums, and she walked by the natural history museum. On most of the occasions she was going to the other ones. I believe her. People are interested in human history and not necessarily in rocks or bird eggs, and if they are, they've got other facilities like the John Janzen Nature Centre right here in Edmonton or other similar locations. The fact of the matter is that the cuts at the Provincial Museum are going to force the human history research component from about 50 percent of the time used by the people on the job to about 20 percent, which means basically barely keeping pace, not able to develop.

Now, I would like to put a number of the questions that I'd asked the minister on February 13 on the record and see if he'll answer them.

I understand Two of the 10 positions cut in Historical Resources Division are 100% federally funded by a grant that expires next year. What is going to happen to those positions? If they're not provincially funded, why are they cut? What do we do with the federal tax dollars? Was there any reason for cutting in human history and not balancing the cuts with the natural history section? I don't understand why in the new division, archaeology and ethnology, no cuts were made, but they were made, as I said, in human history. Only two, I understand, of all the jobs that were cut were management. One of the management positions in fact is only a demotion; the person still occupies a job, just a different title. Is this fair? When you're cutting a bunch of jobs, don't you try to be evenhanded between workers and management? Not that I agree to these cuts in the first place. I understand that there are four assistant directors at the provincial museum; that sounds a bit top heavy to me. Does the minister agree?

By way of a story, the minister and I were out at an event together earlier this evening. On the way back I said: "Do you have a copy of that letter that I sent you on the 13th? I can't find mine, and I don't have time to go through the computer disks." He says, "Yeah, I think so." Anyway, I pulled it off, and it turns out that the minister hadn't found his. I did give him a copy of this earlier, so he can look at this as a checklist.

I understand that a couple of curators were approaching retirement, and I wonder if any consideration was given to offering them early retirement so that the positions could be

filled by others who are currently on staff or contract, and if not, why not? I'm concerned about the traveling exhibits being able to continue – that is, ones that are organized out of the PMA – for traveling throughout the province if they don't have somebody dedicated to co-ordinating them. Or is the minister assuming that one person – who's going to be busy; who is already busy – is now going to be able to do the job formerly done by two busy people?

The minister has these questions in front of him. I think that I've hit most of the primary questions, the very important ones. I would like somebody to make sense out of this: all to save 1 and a half million dollars, which is not going to be saved because the visitorship at the museum and the other historical facilities is naturally going to decline. It makes no sense.

Mr. Chairman, in the context of funding, I would also like to talk about the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act, which is also going to Committee of the Whole very soon. I wonder why, if the minister was willing to give us a foundation for the arts, he didn't do it in a way that was a little more democratically oriented and allow the artists themselves to elect or nominate their representatives. The arts, as I've said a million times in this place, are an extremely important component of society, not just an economic component. Remember that probably most of the people on the floor of this building right now learned the alphabet by humming a little ditty. We use the arts in all facets of our lives. We cannot understate the importance of them. If it weren't for the arts, we wouldn't have the massive industries that we do, even including television and movie production, but it goes much beyond that.

I would like to say that I've received a number of letters opposing the government's cuts to the department and particularly with the museum and other historical foundations. I also wonder if the minister has ever made a formal response – now, he's not the lotteries minister; I understand that – to the Alberta Conference for Theatre and the organizations with which they have worked to become the provincial arts service organizations respecting financing of the arts partly through lottery funds and also through the department. You'll see, Mr. Chairman, that the department funding for the arts has been axed dramatically. The assumption is that there will be one funding source now outside the department, and that will be the Alberta foundation for the arts. That part – the latter only I speak – is absolutely acceptable.

A single funding agency makes total sense. I couldn't agree more. I'm not sure I agree with the way the people at the foundations were laid off; I understand it was a very unpleasant experience, not exactly professionally handled. But if we're going to have one foundation, why don't we fund it to the tune that all of the arts organizations used to be funded at? Instead, what you've got every year is an erosion of funding available for grants through the department of culture, and now what is happening is the lottery funding is similarly declining. I think that's a real problem, and I think it could be corrected if the minister would stand up and say that the funding for the arts should be a matter that the Assembly decides and urge his cabinet colleague to change the legislation so that lottery funding comes as a separate item to the Assembly for determination.

8:40

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to give my colleague, the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, a few minutes to speak on subjects related to multiculturalism. Before I do that, I have one more area of interest that I would like to raise. This is certainly not an exhaustive list of concerns, but we will be able to get back

to other issues, I think, as the minister responds and other people participate.

I would like to talk about the Cochrane Ranche, a matter I have raised before both in question period and in consideration of the estimates. Even the Friends of the Cochrane Ranche are opposed to the location that has been designated for the development of the western heritage centre. They don't want it there, and in fact the local ratepayers group doesn't want it there either.

AN HON. MEMBER: Anonymous.

MS BARRETT: They may be anonymous: the Cochrane Ratepayers for Responsible & Responsive Government. They ask a whole bunch of good questions.

- (1) Why is Government money being committed to a project which doesn't have the financial support of the private sector?
- (2) Will the WHC be able to support itself once the project is completed . . .

Who's going to be responsible for running it? Will the WHC be required to

pay back the town of Cochrane the \$26,000 they borrowed for a feasibility study, right after [they'd] received a \$94,000 grant from the Provincial Government to do a study?

There's a lot of accountability that has to go on here, and I'm afraid it comes back to rest on the shoulders of one minister: the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

Is the minister listening the concerns being put by the community? I noted – I just have to find this section – that the Care Group, also out of Cochrane, did a poll in December 1989. A survey of 109 homes in Cochrane yielded the following results: 63 percent against the WHC on the ranch, 12 percent undecided, 25 percent in favour. It sounds to me like there's a real steamroller happening here, and I cannot for the life of me figure out why. Last year when I asked the question the minister said: "Don't worry about it, Barrett. The Member for Banff-Cochrane is looking after the interests of his constituents." Well, I don't think so. I'm now seeing more and more organizations, including the Friends of the Cochrane Ranche, saying, "We want the Western Heritage Centre; we don't want it on this historical site." They say:

A motion by the Friends last year proposed a 50-acre tract of government-owned land north of the currently proposed site. WHC officials refused even to review that proposal.

The Friends' proposed site would have given the WHC a better view and easier access to Highway 22. It would have avoided destruction of the Hidden Valley and be cheaper to build.

As importantly, it would have resolved the long-term dispute within the community over the proper use of the Ranche.

Mr. Chairman, I think the minister should respond to this, and categorically. Don't pass it off to the MLA. This is under the minister's jurisdiction, and he has a responsibility to reply.

On that point I think I'll conclude my remarks. I thank the committee again for the time share arrangement. We'd always be glad to return that if the government ever requested such a motion.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

MR. GIBEAULT: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're back at this annual exercise of reviewing the estimates of the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, so we have to reflect on where we've been for the past year. It's hard to imagine that it could

be a worse year than it was last year, because you may remember that we were just reviewing the editorial opinion last year that said, "Doug Main needs a multicultural education," and "Minister of sadness," "Main must explain," . . . [interjections] And so many other like-minded critical editorials of this minister and his lack of leadership. [interjections]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please in the committee.

MR. GIBEAULT: The minister started his comments expressing his regret about the layoffs in his department, and I'd just like to have the record record my prediction that this minister is going to get his pink slip come the next election from the voters of Edmonton-Parkallen. Mr. Chairman, I want to go over some of the reasons why I believe that.

We had this piece of propaganda put out by the minister called Alberta: One Heart, Many Colours, and we really have to take a look at that because it had many interesting things in it. No substance, but some interesting things nonetheless. The government talks about their three areas of activity: awareness, access, and participation. So let's talk about that a little bit.

The government talks about its commitment to access, and yet, Mr. Chairman, we've had reports in the press for a long period of time. There was one just recently in the *Edmonton Journal*: "Doctors Without Patients: Foreign-trained doctors in Canada willing to prove themselves capable but find it hard to get the chance." What about access for those people? What's the minister got to say about that? What kind of lobbying has he done with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Labour on behalf of new Canadians who are being denied access and being denied an opportunity to participate? That's the third buzzword here, participation. There are people that want to participate in this province, and they're being denied opportunities to do so. I don't hear the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism doing much of the advocacy work that he and his associate the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission are being paid to do. That's just not acceptable.

Another area we have to talk about in terms of access and participation is the question of English as a Second Language. Mr. Chairman, I made a point in this Assembly just recently that between the minister and the chairman of the commission, who's got a responsibility to be an advocate in this area, there is a need pointed out and documented by the government's own interdepartmental committee on ESL that showed a need for an extra \$9 million in funds. That's not in the budget this year, and I want the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission and the minister to explain why. Is it because they are total failures as advocates for ESL? Because that's the role that was identified for them in their own interdepartmental committee report, and they haven't done it.

Mr. Chairman, we have to look at a couple of other items as well. If we look at page 8 in this little piece of propaganda here, it talks about the Multiculturalism Advisory Council. Remember last year the minister didn't have any hesitation at disbanding the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council – this is over a year ago now – arbitrarily saying thanks but we don't need you folks any more. All those volunteers from ethnocultural communities around the province who'd worked hard trying to promote multiculturalism in the province of Alberta, arbitrarily and summarily dismissed. We're a year later, and where is the Multiculturalism Advisory Council? Page 8 of this little document says the multiculturalism council "will come from across the province." That's future tense. A year ago and where is this Multiculturalism Advisory Council? There's no item in the budget to cover any expenses

with it. Does it not have a budget? Is that because it's not going to be doing anything of any significance or any substance? I'd like the chairman of the commission and the minister to speak to that.

Now, included in that kit as well, Mr. Chairman, there was an outline of the biographies of the new members of the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission, and you will note that the vice-chairman of the commission is Mr. Orest Olineck who used to be involved with the provincial co-ordinating committee of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council. It's interesting to note what Mr. Olineck, who, as I said, is now the vice-chairman of the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission, said in a letter to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism dated May 12 of last year regarding Mr. Fil Fraser, the chairman of the Human Rights Commission. Most interesting. I would like the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission or the minister to tell us what kind of a response he had to send to Mr. Olineck because I would certainly like to know and so would many Albertans across the province. Mr. Olineck in his letter said:

Dear Mr. Main,

We are writing yourself at the unanimous direction of the [provincial co-ordinating council] following the April 28, 1990 windup meeting to express our concern, displeasure, and dismay at the comments made by Fil Fraser, Chief Commissioner, Alberta Human Rights Commission.

They go on to say, Mr. Chairman,

The Government could reprimand Mr. Fraser and indicate to him that his reported remarks have compromised his effectiveness and drawn his impartiality into question.

Now, what kind of a response did the minister make to that? I think Albertans would like to know, so I look forward to his answer to that question.

**8:50**

Now, let's look at a couple of other items here, Mr. Chairman. Albertans have been waiting – my goodness, it goes back many years now – for the recommendations of the Ghitter report requesting and encouraging the province to develop a policy on intercultural or multicultural education. I recognize that the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism is not responsible for education, but certainly he's got to be an advocate for multicultural education. Surely that's part of his responsibility. I'd like him to explain on behalf of his government why all these years after the Ghitter report came out we still don't have in this province a provincial policy on multicultural education.

They point out in their little booklet here, *One Heart, Many Colours*, that there are school boards in this province that are showing leadership; the government isn't, but that they are. They point out for example on page 5 that the Lethbridge school district has "designed and conducted multicultural . . . workshops" and so on. I know the Edmonton boards are doing that as well as Calgary, but we have no provincial leadership in that area, and I'd like the minister to respond and explain that vacuum if he would and if he could.

Of course, one of the other things that we expect from a minister of multiculturalism and a chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission is to be some kind of an advocate on behalf of cultural communities in this province, especially when they're facing attacks of one sort or another by mean-minded, mean-spirited citizens. We just go back to the question of turbans for Sikh officers in the RCMP last year. The minister and the chairman of the commission were shameful in their silence on that issue. This year when there were problems facing the Arabic community over the Persian Gulf war, where

were these two people? Silent, no advocacy role whatsoever: a total abdication of their leadership.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make one other area of comment. That's in this whole question of employment equity. I've raised this before, and I know the minister has got an ideological problem with this question, especially coming as he does from the Reform Party, that far right wing, weird group of people there. I've got to come back and point out to the minister here that the Alberta council on women's issues, the city of Calgary, many organizations in the Calgary Multicultural Centre, and the people that are working in the ethnocultural communities here in the city of Edmonton have taken some leadership on the employment equity question and have explained the need for it.

There was an article just in the *Globe and Mail* on Friday which I'm going to send to the Minister for his edification as well. It's an article on April 12. The headline was: "When inequality is built right into the system," and the subheading was Arguments that affirmative action has failed to benefit disadvantaged minorities in the United States are wrong. And employment equity, the Canadian version of the process, is essential to correct flaws and imbalances in the job market.

I hope the minister will take a few moments to read that. It's an article prepared by a professor of anthropology at York University and a professor of human resources and labour relations at McMaster University. I hope he tries to get his head around the idea about employment equity being a policy that tries to ensure that everybody gets fair access to the employment opportunities in the province.

This has been introduced at the federal government level, I would point out, Mr. Chairman, by no less than a federal Conservative government. I know these people have had a divorce with their federal counterparts just recently, but I would suggest that there are people who've got a lot more insight and a lot more sensitivity and foresight into the needs of the changing Canadian population, the diverse population that makes up our country. Employment equity has got to be an essential part of that, a policy that we can be proud of that ensures that women, people with disabilities, aboriginal citizens in our province and our country, and people who come from visible minority communities all have an equal opportunity to share in the opportunities of our province. I just want to remind the minister and the chairman again that the mission statement of the Multiculturalism Commission is that they want "every Albertan to have an equal opportunity to pursue his or her hopes and dreams." Mr. Chairman, employment equity is central to that. We cannot continue to have a situation where significant populations of the community, minority communities of one kind or another, are marginalized and not allowed, not permitted, to have an appropriate role to play in all sectors, all fields of endeavour within the province.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the responses of the minister and the chairman of the commission on those points.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Calgary-McKnight. I understand there's a request.

**MRS. GAGNON:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to split my 30 minutes with the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, with the committee's approval, and I so move.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Are we agreed to the request of the Member for Calgary-McKnight?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? It is agreed.  
Please proceed.

MRS. GAGNON: Mr. Chairman, although the minister has indicated that he doesn't seem to be well disposed to answering our questions tonight because he has better things to do – such as watching the hockey game, I gather – I nevertheless do have a number of questions to pose, and I do hope that the minister will be able to sit and listen and answer my questions.

Although the minister has claimed to have streamlined and reorganized, his Departmental Support budget has increased by 2.2 percent. Now, how can this be justified when manpower authorization has decreased in vote 2, Cultural Development, by 14.2 percent; in vote 3, Historical Resources Development, by 6.4 percent; and in vote 4, Multiculturalism Development, by 8.6 percent? Could the minister explain the increases in vote 1 in view of the culture layoffs and program cuts?

Going to vote 2, Cultural Development, overall this budget is down 14.2 percent although administrative support is up 11.2 percent. I would like to know why the increase in administrative support. Vote 2.2, Visual Arts, the total is down 17.6 percent; 2.2.2, Financial Assistance, down 100 percent; Workshops and Development, down 18.5 percent. Why the decreases in workshops and development resources? We see vote 2.2.4, Exposure, up 10.6 percent. So this area has increased while Workshops and Development has decreased, and I would like the minister to detail this item.

Still in vote 2 we see that direct grants have been cut, and instead grants will be distributed through the proposed Alberta foundation for the arts, Bill 15. The department will provide the administration for the foundation, and it will be completely funded through lottery funds to the tune of approximately \$16 million. In speaking with the arts community, I've learned that groups have taken on the responsibility for workshops and programming. Since the workshop program budgets have decreased for the department, is it a policy of the minister to leave the majority of programming to individual arts organizations? Is there a plan to ensure that these organizations have the financial resources necessary to carry out their extra responsibilities?

Going now to vote 2.3, Performing Arts, the total is down 70 percent, and the subtotals: Music and Dance, down 79.5 percent; Theatre, down 89.5 percent; Exposure in this area, down 93.2 percent. Why is Exposure in Performing Arts down while Visual Arts is up? Is this arbitrarily decided by the minister? Who helps the minister to make these decisions? Can the minister ensure that performing arts groups, now to receive support almost solely through lottery funds, will receive adequate funding?

Going to vote 2.4, Film and Literary Arts, again down 50.1 percent. However, Administrative Support is up 5.6 percent. Why is this when support has decreased for performing and visual arts? In vote 2.4.2, Financial Assistance is down 100 percent. Again, I'd really like an explanation of what this is all about. Workshops and Development in the area of Film and Literary Arts, down 29.6 percent. Again, who is responsible, who is making the decisions, and who will look after the workshops and development for the film and literary arts?

9:00

The minister has mentioned that he is very proud of the library services and the fact that the budget went up 2.4 percent.

This is a nominal increase and certainly not substantial and not enough really to meet the needs in library services that are out there. We are now year one of the literacy year, and it seems to me that we should continue to fund library services in a much more adequate fashion than we are doing now.

I am very happy to see that the Northern Lights library system has gotten the go-ahead and that it will be in place, but I would like to know when. A number of people out there also would like to know when, again because library services and regional services are very important to enriching and enlightening the lives of all Albertans.

In vote 2.5.4, the Alberta Library Board, we see again a decrease of 29.5 percent. Why this decrease?

Bibliographic Services, down 14.5 percent. Were they less necessary? Why the decrease?

Looking at vote 3, Historical Resources Development, the total there is down 6.4 percent. Management and Operations is up .5 percent. Program Support is up 39.1 percent; I'd like the details. The Historical Facility Development, vote 3.2, is down 100 percent. Why is this?

As you can tell, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of items in this budget that need some expansion. Otherwise, this becomes a farce. We don't know what we are voting on and why the decisions were made, nor do we know by whom those decisions were made.

I'd like to speak very briefly about the proposed Bill 14, Historical Resources Amendment Act, 1991. This Act was tabled in the Legislature recently. Our caucus supported the slight fees which will be paid by people visiting these facilities. We think that admission fees are reasonable and will help. However, I want to make it very clear that we only support the fees if the funds go back into the maintenance and enhancement and so on of the historical resources. We do not want to see the fees transferred into general funds. We believe that this should not occur, and we will have amendments to make to this Bill when it comes back.

I would like now to ask the minister about 3.3, Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation, which is down 22.3 percent. I'd like to know if this is the area where the funding for STEP, or the summer temporary employment program, comes from. I see that that has been reduced by half this year. Many of these students worked in our historic resources for Alberta culture, so I'm wondering: why is it that there will only be 90 STEP students this year, and how will you be able to maintain the staffing in our prestigious historic sites with only half of the STEP students available? I would like to know what the minister's plans are to ensure that there will be adequate staffing, and I would like to know if he has discussed this staffing and the fact that STEP student availability is down with the Minister of Tourism, because it seems to me that they have to work together.

Just very quickly I would like to mention the staff cuts at the Tyrrell provincial museum, the Archaeological Survey of Alberta, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, and so on. I can see the minister's need to cut staff and to rationalize and so on, but it seems to me that it was not carried out in a very sensitive or humane manner. It seemed as though it was quite cruel and piecemeal, without consultation with the union or with the workers. The minister has referred to the incident as one which was unfortunate. However, I would like to ask him why he did not carry out this necessary step in a better way, in a more humane and sensitive way.

I would like to repeat that we have no problem with culture being funded from lotteries, but we would like to see a system



where there is more accountability in this Legislature as regards those lottery funds: how they are spent, how much is allocated to culture, and so on. Also, many of the culture groups are concerned that they don't have a long-term guarantee of funding, and therefore it's difficult for them to plan ahead when they are looking at their programs for ensuing years.

To ask one other question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how the arts review is being funded, through what vote. I understand that the arts review is studying arts funding in other provinces, which is wonderful. There's never any harm in learning what other provinces are doing and maybe being able to share what we are doing with them because we have a lot to teach others as well as to learn from others. I would like to know where this arts review is being funded.

With these questions, Mr. Chairman, I would now turn this portion of our critique over to my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

MR. WICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must commend my colleague from Calgary-McKnight for her words of wisdom on culture. I guess culture is viewed by different people in different fashions. To some people culture may be watching Kurt Browning do his quadruple loop on the ice. To others culture may be watching Esa Tikkanen glide down that ice, shooting that puck by Vernon, which he's done twice tonight.

MR. MAIN: What's the score, Percy?

MR. WICKMAN: To the minister: which he'll do one more time yet tonight.

Multiculturalism, Mr. Chairman, I guess to me in its simplest terms has to recognize the principle of equality, and when we talk in terms of equality as it relates to opportunity for employment, as it relates to opportunity for services, as it relates to opportunity for programs, and so on, that equality also has to be combined with an understanding and a respect for other cultures.

Canada is a very diverse society, extremely diverse. We are enriched by cultures from all parts of the world, and we have in recent years seen a very, very significant change in our diversity with our cultural activities in Alberta and other parts of Canada. It's done with some difficulty on the part of some people. There is a reluctance on a small part of people to accept that people are different, that you simply can't put a person into a melting pot and have them all come out appearing to be equal and acting in an equal behaviour.

I look at a statement that was published in 1984. It was a statement adopted by the Canadian Council for Multicultural and Intercultural Education, and it talks in terms of seven principles. I think that these principles are very, very important, and I would like to have these read into the record because these principles, I think, define much more closely what the principles of multiculturalism are to the ethnocultural groups in the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta. One talks in terms of "equality of all cultural and ethnic groups within the framework of our officially bilingual country." Secondly, "the freedom of individuals and groups to the retention and development of their cultures as part of the Canadian Identity." That, Mr. Chairman, I believe is extremely important. Thirdly, we talk in terms of "equality of access by all individuals and groups to

employment and promotion, services and support." There I must stress the need to recognize equality regardless of race, regardless of colour, regardless of ethnic origin. Fourthly, "a commitment to sharing our cultures within the mainstream of Canadian society; an undertaking to participate in Canadian citizenship and the democratic process in terms of both rights and responsibilities; a belief that individuals have the freedom to choose the particular attributes they prefer within the framework of our democratic principles." Lastly, and very, very importantly, "respect for and observance of human rights and civil liberties as exemplified in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the common law, and human rights codes."

9:10

There, Mr. Chairman, on that last point I have had some disagreements with the approach used by the minister responsible for multiculturalism. We see a document that's published with the phrase Alberta: One Heart, Many Colours. It sounds nice. It sounds very, very catchy, but we need more than just phrases. We need action. We need action in terms of implementing programs. We need action in terms of demonstrating leadership. The minister uses a term, de-ethnicize. Maybe he could define that particular term when he responds to the comments that are being made. I'm not sure if what he's trying to drive at is that we follow the more American type model where we use a melting pot process, hoping that in time to come we are all equal in terms of some very depressing news here by the sound of things.

MR. BRADLEY: It's 3-3.

MR. WICKMAN: Oh, very, very good news. I'm sorry. Very, very good news. The member from Calgary was waving 4-2.

Mr. Chairman, the minister I believe has a responsibility to be front and centre when we talk in terms of understanding and respecting the cultures of the various persons we have in our province. I can go back to a number of incidents that have occurred in the past that have caused some very, very harsh feelings, some real discontentment with the leadership shown by the minister. I go back to a number of months ago when we went through the issue of the Sikhs being allowed to wear their turbans within the RCMP, the question of what I call the promotion of hatred material. It was hatred material. Some of the lapel pins, the calendars, and other items that were being promoted did reek of racism. They reeked of hostility. They reeked of outright hatred towards other cultures. They failed to recognize the need to respect and understand other cultures. The minister was noticeably quiet in his comments in responding to those types of incidents that so many people found very, very offensive.

I have a number of questions, Mr. Chairman, that I want to direct to the minister. I'd like to know specifically what steps the minister has taken in conjunction with colleagues within his cabinet as far as promoting or expanding English as a Second Language. We've recognized within this Assembly difficulties as far as shortcomings in that particular program. I guess it goes without saying that if one does not have the opportunity to master English as a second language for those that recently immigrated to Canada, it can pose very, very extreme difficulties in participating in the mainstream of society or participating on an equal basis within society.

I myself can cite years and years ago when my father came from Finland as a young man of 23 years of age into Port Arthur, Ontario. When he died at the age of 84, he still did

not speak a word of English, which was unfortunate. Port Arthur at that time was a very, very Finnish community, and many people that came from Finland chose to retain Finnish as their only language. They weren't really given the opportunity; they weren't given the encouragement; the facility wasn't there to provide the opportunity to master English. It was a real disadvantage. In my father's case he was a bush worker all his life. He never had any other opportunity, and that was true of many Finlanders that settled in the Port Arthur, which is now Thunder Bay, area. The same was true of other cultures in the past. In the early '50s we saw large numbers of people come from Germany. Many of those people from Germany didn't have the opportunity to readily adapt to English as a second language, and again they had the disadvantage of not being able to compete on an equal basis. One could say, "Well, why didn't they take it upon themselves to learn it?" It can be very, very difficult when you settle in a community that doesn't provide that opportunity, that ready access to those types of programs.

We've come a long way since that time, Mr. Chairman. There is no question about that. There is a need for much greater expansion of English as a Second Language programs to provide that type of opportunity. When we talk in terms of immigration to Canada, it's important that those support services be made readily available to allow people to have equal opportunity within our system, within our different avenues of opportunity, and the minister responsible for multiculturalism does have some responsibility in working with his colleagues to promote those types of programs. I'd like to know specifically what he's done in attempting to convince his colleagues that this should be earmarked as a higher priority.

I'd also like to have the minister respond specifically as to what types of programs, what types of initiatives he's done when it's come to establishing affirmative programs within the provincial government and encouraging affirmative programs within the private sector. I'm not talking in terms of a quota system. I'm talking in terms of an affirmative action program; in other words, a program where you remove the barriers that may be there to those that are disadvantaged because of their cultural background, disadvantaged in the sense that they don't always have that equal opportunity. It's a question of not only sometimes removing physical barriers but, more importantly, removing attitudinal barriers. I'd like to know just exactly what steps the minister has taken in this regard and, since the minister's report has come out and the passage of the most recent multiculturalism Act and the establishment of the new commission, specifically what pieces of legislation the minister has worked on, drafted up, and what pieces of legislation he intends to introduce to emphasize multiculturalism in terms of equality. I'd like to know what programs he may have on the back burners, what programs he intends to introduce within the House.

In the budget it's very clear that performance groups within the multicultural area will have to compete on an equal basis when it comes to funding for arts and performances. That, Mr. Chairman, I don't really have a great deal of difficulty with, because there we are talking in terms of equality, and as long as they are given equal access to compete for those funds, I think ethnocultural groups are prepared to accept that. Many of the groups that we do see that have a cultural background to them, it's questionable as to whether one would define them as a cultural activity or an arts activity. So often it is an arts activity. As a member of a disadvantaged group myself, or a minority group, I believe that equality and not preferential treatment is the direction that has to be taken.

Another area that I'd like the minister to address is what initiatives he's worked out with his colleagues the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Education in developing multicultural concepts within the educational program, particularly within elementary schools. I go throughout the riding of Edmonton-Whitemud in particular and talk to the students in schools, and I do that on many, many occasions. I had the opportunity this morning to go to a school outside of Edmonton-Whitemud in the riding of Edmonton-Mill Woods. I found the same situation in Edmonton-Mill Woods as I would in Edmonton-Whitemud, and that is that in the elementary schools it is like a sea of multiculturalism. There are people there from various ethnocultural backgrounds. Many of them have come to Canada from other countries themselves. They play together, and it's enjoyable to watch. It's enjoyable to be a part of because they see each other as being equal; they don't refer to one as being a different colour or looking a little different or being strange in whatever way.

9:20

Unfortunately, I believe that what does happen on occasion: some of them may go home and their parents may view them differently. Unfortunately at times that's the sad part of, let's say, the more adult type society. If anywhere we can create that awareness, that understanding, it has to start at the elementary level. I can even refer, I guess, just for one second to the bilingual program that was introduced by the federal government. Had it been introduced at the elementary level of the schools and brought upon us more slowly, I guess from that point of view it would have been more acceptable. I just believe that in that particular area it's so important and we have so many opportunities to create that awareness that is necessary, and in time we'll see, I believe, a lot of those racial tendencies that are demonstrated by a small – and I emphasize small – number of our society slowly disappear.

I look forward, Mr. Chairman, to the response by the Minister responsible for Culture and Multiculturalism. As I've said before and other members of our caucus have said before, because we do have some difficulty with the process that is used in going through the budget process I did have some intention earlier on of presenting a motion to allow us a different direction with the process that we're now into, but I've chosen at this particular point to bypass that motion and possibly will bring it forward some other night. I don't believe it would be appropriate tonight to prolong the debate in an area that we didn't have too much luck with the other night and an area that we'll have opportunity to again bring before this particular committee.

On those notes I'll conclude, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, hon. member.  
The Member for Lacombe.

MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your consent I won't ask to divide my time. I'll speak it entirely on my own.

MR. ZARUSKY: Aren't you going to trade with Lloydminster?

MR. MOORE: No, I am not going to divide it with the Member for Lloydminster.

First of all, the minister and his department promote equality among peoples, but they aren't demonstrating it tonight. They've got some of us peasants in here and the elite are out

watching the hockey game, so he isn't setting a very good example. But I guess that's the breaks of life.

I'd like to congratulate the minister. I look and I note that in these times of restraint he has handled his budget in a very responsible way. He's cut the so-called fat out of his budget and kept the main components there. The thrust is still there. He has done that with less money. This is what we have to look at as citizens of Alberta, and this minister has demonstrated it with his budget. He's taking a leadership role in that area, so he's done an excellent job there. He's done this, Mr. Chairman, by not cutting the one very important area that every municipality usually cuts when they get into tight areas financially, and that's libraries. That's the first thing that gets cut in every budget. This minister, and again I congratulate him, realized the importance of libraries; he increased it by 2.4 percent and yet held his overall budget below what he spent last year. That's a demonstration of the leadership role taken by this department.

Now, there are some other areas they could take a leadership role in, and I'll swing over to culture and multiculturalism. They have a hard time working this because over the whole history of Canada we have developed a train of thought from the first time somebody developed the crazy terminology "founding nations," and we have to live with it. They suddenly have hyphenated founding nations. They've got two founding nations. Those two founding nations suddenly became French-Canadians and English-Canadians. We started from that point. Mr. Chairman, the minister and his department have a big job on their hands if they're going to eliminate hyphenated Canadians. The most divisive thing in Canada between peoples is the hyphenated Canadian.

It's too bad that in the early days when Canada was beginning they didn't take note of one of the ethnic groups which came to Canada with the first wave of immigrants. They opened up eastern Canada; they played a major role in western Canada; they did a tremendous job for Canada. They never asked to be called hyphenated Canadians; they became Canadians when they stepped on this shore. The chairman of the Council on Multiculturalism said that they came here to pursue his or her dreams. I would think that when people come to Canada their dream is to become Canadians or they wouldn't have come here. If they wanted to remain in their own ethnic group, why didn't they stay in their country? Why do we seem to want to hang onto differences when we can emphasize that we are Canadians and Canadians first? We have a lot to do so that these people coming in here do not bring with them their problems, their ideas, trying to change what Canada is but become Canadians. We show them that we're very proud of Canadians. As long as we keep the hyphenated Canadian in there, Mr. Chairman, we aren't going to go very far, because that is dividing Canada.

Now, getting back to this ethnic group that you could use as an example, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes. Who were they?

MR. MOORE: They were the Irish. Who else? Who else but the Irish, Mr. Chairman? They came here. You have never heard anything about it. They came here as Canadians. That's why everybody had to ask; they didn't know. They landed on this shore, and from the time they set foot here they were Canadians. They never looked back at Ireland; they left those fights there in the north and south and said, "Good-bye, we're over here in Canada, and we are Canadians."

To the minister: hopefully his thrust will be to take his lead from that group that came over. They aren't Irish-Canadians;

they came over here as an ethnic group and were Canadians from the day they came. That thrust will be for your department to make Canadians Canadians and eliminate the hyphenated area in our terminology.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

9:30

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity I have this evening to make a couple of comments about a matter that has concerned me for some time, and it seems to me the appropriate opportunity to speak about it in the estimates review of the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism here this evening.

[Mr. Moore in the Chair]

Sometime, Mr. Chairman, if not tonight but sometime very soon, I would like to hear from this government, in clear, unequivocal ways and frequently, a clear repudiation of the mounting incidence of racism in this province. Sometime soon, I don't want it to be very long, I want this minister to announce a broad initiative to fight racism and racist groups in Alberta. There is a growing incidence of hate related activities, hate related harassment against visible minorities and others in this province, and the Aryan Nations, in particular, are the worst expression of racism in Alberta. I believe that when we take care of racism, we will get rid of the white supremacists, not vice versa. I think it's about time that this government and all people in this Legislature begin to take these people far more seriously than we have to this point in time.

Prejudice is a learned behaviour, and it's often learned early. By the same token, so is tolerance a learned behaviour and often learned early. But more important than simply tolerating others who are different, much more important is valuing or celebrating the differences that we have. That also is learned behaviour, Mr. Chairman. As our population in Alberta and in Canada becomes more diverse, it presents us with two alternatives: one, to be more welcoming and to learn and to grow from that diversity, or to become more divided and by that diversity more isolated and more hateful.

The reason I'm concerned, Mr. Chairman, is that even though our population I believe is becoming generally more tolerant, the fact of the matter is that some people are becoming less tolerant. As more and more of us are competing for what appear to be limited resources, those who practise fear, who preach fear, who live in fear will have more and more opportunities to spread their particular views. We are entering a recession, if not yet in Alberta. Hopefully we won't. Nevertheless, there's growing unemployment and growing competition for resources. There are people in our province who, as they lose jobs, as they lose opportunities, as they lose income, are going to be trying to blame someone, who will be looking for scapegoats. We have those in our province who practise hate and who will point people in the direction of immigrants, visible minorities, aboriginal people: anybody they can look to to blame for the economic problems people are facing. It's a situation in which hate can thrive if we let it. Because these people practise hate, they're also people who are very fearful. They're fearful of change, and they're fearful of feeling that they're losing control. They can prey and grow on the kind of economic situation that this province may be entering, certainly which some groups in this province have already entered.

With this as a bit of a background, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to bring to the minister's and the Legislature's attention this evening a public meeting that I attended in Calgary just this past December sponsored by a number of community groups in that city who were very concerned about this very issue. They invited two speakers from the state of Idaho, in particular the northwest coalition, who had had experience in dealing with the Aryan Nations and other hate groups in Idaho. In fact, it was formed in order to fight and counteract the work the Aryan Nations was pursuing and had taken root in Hayden Lake, Idaho.

It wasn't until the bombs started going off in that state and other serious criminal activity could be directly traced to the Aryan Nations individuals in Idaho that law enforcement and legislators finally woke up and decided something had to be done. So these two gentlemen came to Calgary to share their experience and to encourage Albertans to move before it became too late. The warning was clear and was very unambiguous. Bill Wassmuth, who is the executive director of the northwest citizens coalition, said that serious criminal activity will happen wherever the Aryan Nations are found. I was a bit taken aback at how direct and how unambiguous he was in his statement, but it was only a week or so later that I was given a statement that was a warned statement of two individuals by the name of Mark Swanson and Daniel Sims who have been convicted in an Alberta court for the vicious assault on a former CBC reporter by the name of Keith Rutherford.

In the sworn statement, particularly for that of Daniel Joshua Sims, I was quite taken aback at the number of references to his connections with Terry Long and the Aryan Nations in Caroline. In fact, Daniel Sims worked at one time for Terry Long at his sawmill. The question put to Daniel Sims was this: are you a member of any groups or organizations? These are the organizations he was a member of: the Church of Jesus Christ Aryan Nations; the Alberta Independent Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; the White Aryan Resistance; the Final Solution, a group starting out in Richmond; Viking Youth; the Scottish Storm Trooper Skins, an honorary member; the SS Action Group, Detroit; the English National Front; and the National Socialist Action Party. As well, Mark Swanson indicated how he became involved in the skinheads, which is also another group that has been turned to work in tandem in a number of places with the Aryan Nations.

It became obvious to me, Mr. Chairman, that the warning we were being given was not an idle warning. Indeed, as he went on to relate what has happened in other communities such as Portland, where the skinheads have become a very strong organization – there are tremendous numbers of vicious attacks and harassment of people of visible minorities in that city – it became obvious to me that if we don't want to repeat some of the experiences that have happened in other states in the United States, we need to be doing something at this point to head off our ending up in that situation.

Some of the advice that was given to us that evening I would like to relay to the minister. One is: don't wait too long. If people are not speaking up, it doesn't mean that racism and racist groups will disappear. The problem is: we all have a tendency to dismiss these incidents as simply being isolated, inconsequential, just a fluke, just something that is so far beyond the bounds of what we consider to be acceptable behaviour – it's just a small group of people who will just do this every so often but they're simply isolated, they exist in isolation and it's not part of some larger tendency or larger group, and therefore we dismiss it. There's also another argument, that if we don't give these people any attention or publicity, they'll go away. We

don't want to draw people's attention to what's going on and to give them somehow implicit recognition by talking about it or denouncing it or arguing against it.

#### 9:40

All these arguments, Mr. Chairman, are arguments that in practice haven't worked. The overriding advice from Idaho and the northwest United States in dealing with racist groups is to speak up loudly and strongly. So tonight I'd like to tell the minister of multiculturalism and his staff that we need an antiracism strategy in Alberta. In this regard I note with considerable interest that the Ontario government, just within the last week or two, announced a major new initiative to combat racism in their province. This is after six or seven months in office. They've identified this as an important priority and, by acting, have indicated that a government can tackle this issue if it has a political will to take racism seriously.

The elements of an antiracism strategy, Mr. Chairman, ought to include a number of key factors. First of all, it has to be part of a governmentwide initiative involving all of cabinet. It can't be identified as simply the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism's concern; it has to be a concern of all of cabinet. It has to be a government commitment to employment equity to ensure that all Albertans are treated fairly in applying for employment within the Alberta public service. There has to be a co-ordinated approach to the development and delivery of programs, educational and otherwise.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, is that there has to be a coalition between government and community organizations. It's only when the whole community can come together that the problem can be handled. It can't be considered simply something that is limited to government; it has to be something that government does in conjunction with people at the grass roots of our province.

Thirdly, it has to involve leadership development. People need to speak out and speak loudly and clearly and to set a tone, to set a political climate in this province. It has to come from those of us who are in this Assembly. It has to come from our elected leaders at the municipal level. It has to come from somewhere and an initiative from somewhere. It has to come from us, because, Mr. Chairman, a lack of response can only be interpreted as acquiescence or condoning of these racist groups.

It also, Mr. Chairman, has to be at the forefront of the political agenda. We have to keep it on the front burner. It can't be some initiative tucked away in the back of the multicultural department. This has to be something that all of government is concerned about and takes leadership on.

Fourthly, we have to promote stronger legislation, Mr. Chairman, whether it's to give greater legislative clout to our Human Rights Commission, or if there's other legislation such as the Individual's Rights Protection Act, that can be used to provide public bodies with the ability to prosecute and to combat racism. We need to be able to monitor incidents and hate groups. There are a number of initiatives taken by the states in the northwest part of America, where they have empowered their law enforcement officials and authorities to put in place and begin monitoring incidents of racial and bigoted harassment, so that now all the state law enforcement bodies have to report on an annual basis and have to have in place a system for identifying vicious harassment and report that to their legislators. We need to be monitoring trends in this area and be putting in place the mechanisms to be able to do that.

Finally, as part of an overall initiative, Mr. Chairman, we need to focus on education. Our young people need attention,

particularly when – I mentioned earlier the ways in which these skinheads are preying on many of our young people who are perhaps having emotional difficulties. Perhaps they've run away from home, perhaps they're on the street, and they're aimless, they have no meaning, and they're lost young people. These skinheads come along and recruit them, and these racist groups turn them into members, as I've mentioned in the example I gave earlier in my comments about Daniel Sims and Mark Swanson.

We've got to attend to our young people. In many ways they're less tolerant than their parents and are often the source of the most vicious or the most prominent of these acts against visible minorities. I'm quite concerned about the number of gangs that seem to be operating in our high schools, at least in the big cities and certainly in the city of Calgary. There seems to be a tremendous amount of tension between various groups that have now formed themselves into gangs, and a lot of it is being acted out in the form of violence against each other. There was another incident a couple of weeks ago late at night. It was a terrible situation for the police to try and bring under control. So we must begin now with our young people in our schools to put in place the education programs, the opportunities, the positive outlets to ensure that they don't become recruited by the supremacist groups and turn into lifetime and lifelong purveyors of hatred and intolerance.

Well, I've given the minister some positive ideas. I hope that he will accept them in the spirit in which they're offered. I've tried to be as nonpartisan in my comments tonight as I can be, Mr. Chairman, because it is a matter that concerns all of us regardless of what constituency we represent, regardless of our background, regardless of what area of the province we come from. This is a matter that concerns all of our people at the local level. We have to show leadership. We have to provide the leadership and the initiative in this area.

I would ask the minister to take these comments to heart and to go back and work with his colleagues, with the Premier and the cabinet, in order to bring forward a governmentwide initiative that puts a fight against racism high on the political agenda of this province.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

9:50

MR. MAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, just reviewing the comments of the last short while here, what I'm hoping to do is to respond to many of the questions specifically and get out of here in time to see the last few minutes of the hockey game and still leave enough time for the Member for Calgary-McKnight to get a sense of humour.

You know, when you do more with less, when you cut administration and provide efficiencies in the way you do things, when you provide more moneys for libraries, when you address the fiscal side of your budget and maximize your revenue potential, and when you make some bold, strong moves in the policy area, it doesn't leave a great deal to complain about, but there have been some specific questions, and I'm going to deal with them. I'll attempt to deal with them in the order in which they were raised, so we may bounce back and forth between departmental responsibilities, and there may be some duplication. But if that's all right, that's what I will do.

The Member for Edmonton-Highlands – and of course this is about the third or fourth time we've been through this exercise. I don't hesitate at all to say, Mr. Chairman, that this is an enjoyable exercise. On the question about the Northern Lights,

the member referred to some level of bullying and was directing the complaints at the government members and particularly the minister. But it should be pointed out that the decision of the Northern Lights board on where to locate its headquarters was the decision of the Northern Lights board, not the decision of the government and certainly not the decision of the minister. As a matter of fact, I have told members of the board and people in the area that I want nothing to do with this decision. This is not my decision; it's not a political decision to make. This is a decision made by the Northern Lights board.

I can assure the House that had we had the money in the budget last year when this decision came around, had the financial situation allowed us – and I'm speaking honestly and forthrightly – that money would have gone forward and the board would have built its headquarters wherever it decided to build it. In intervening months members of the community came forward. There were suggestions made within the board that maybe they should think about this. There were some other factors at play, and the board, on its own, independently made a decision where to put its headquarters. Now, they may change their minds again. That's not a government decision, Mr. Chairman. My role, my responsibility is to make sure they've got the money to operate their system. We've done that, and they're going ahead, and I'm glad of it.

On the question of the 18 questions, I did receive a letter from the critic for cultural matters from the New Democrat caucus on February 13, and I was prepared to answer this question and these questions. I had the questions answered in my office very, very soon after, but the tone of this letter I found offensive. The member in her letter accuses the government of lying – accuses the government of lying. Why, then, would she seek an answer when she believes the things that the government says are lies? Why would I subject my staff, the people in my office, to typing out this whole letter that she thinks are lies at any rate? "I share the incredulity of Albertans who believe we have been lied to by the government," and she raises the hoary old story about the Premier saying there would be no layoffs. That story has been repudiated time and time and time again. No such definitive statement was made. The statement was made that yes, there may be layoffs; you'll have to wait for the budget to see. We have the budget; there were layoffs; nobody lied to anybody.

Mr. Chairman, to the matter of the questions. There are 18 questions, and I suppose when all is said and done, I'll provide the member with the 18 answers that she's looking for, but the ones she raised tonight were the first seven. I mentioned in my earlier remarks that a lot of these are half-truths and skewed facts, but nevertheless . . .

Two positions cut, funded by a federal grant. That grant has not yet been approved. The grant is for a lump sum; how it's spent is up to the recipient. We make those decisions internally, and anyway those grant dollars go into the government's General Revenue Fund.

Next question: why were cuts made from human history and not natural history? Prior to reorganization there was one curatorial unit at the PMA. The cuts came there. Only three of the 10 positions were in that unit; two were permanent positions. The reorganization of the historical resources division consolidated human history activities and historic sites. There are now more people associated with human history collections than there were before. Research continues in the human history area. All the commitments to human history exhibits at the PMA will be met. Human history will continue as a major

focus for exhibits in the future through the historic sites and archives services, the reorganized area that does that work.

No positions cut in ethnology; she asks why. This area is understaffed already relative to the basic number of aboriginal cultures in Alberta, and we're attempting to address this issue by assigning other staff to this important area.

Question four. She alleges that only two management jobs were cut, one being a minor demotion. There was one management position abolished at the PMA and two in the historical resources division. Facts wrong again; the basic underlying facts by which she asks her questions are wrong. It's worthy to note that one of those positions has been redeployed within the department already, and another person has taken voluntary separation.

The member alleges there are four assistant directors at the PMA and wonders if this is top-heavy. The ratio of assistant directors to staff is approximately 1 to 16 at the PMA, and that's a much higher ratio than is found elsewhere typically. With the nature of the diverse functions of the PMA, as a matter of fact, we should probably have more assistant directors than are there. There are five management staff and 81 bargaining staff at the PMA now, to give you an idea of managers to staff ratio.

Question six. Two curators approaching retirement: could they be replaced with abolishees or with contract personnel? Answer: there is no mandatory retirement age; no intent to retire has been communicated from those individuals. Curatorships are specialized positions that cannot be routinely hired to. An extensive search often is required to fill these positions. These are specialized people. You don't just get anybody to fill them.

Traveling exhibits. The question was raised: will they continue? In the letter the question is: assuming "that one person can do the work formerly done by two busy people." Well, in actual fact, the traveling exhibits program was coordinated by one person, not two as the member suggested. The reorganization and configuration of the jobs will enable the PMA to continue to meet the requirements in this area.

The questions go on, but I offer the undertaking that I will provide a written response to those questions to the Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

She made a correlation between a 6.4 percent reduction in one budget area and a similar amount of money being raised through fees. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, there's no correlation at all. One area is General Revenue Fund dollars used to support the basic support staff activities of the museum. We've made cuts there - I've just acknowledged it - through a number of layoffs. We've made cuts there to do what we do with fewer dollars. The money that's going to be raised through admission fees is going to allow us to continue to deliver fine public programs, to continue to maintain the high quality of the visitor experience. Front of house, out-front public contact programs and exhibits is where the fee money is going. The other cut is related to behind-the-scenes curatorial research work, and we admittedly are going to do that work with less money through reorganization.

The member feels that because fees will be added, this will deter people from coming, and she raised the issue of traveling type exhibits that come through. Mr. Chairman, nothing could be further from the truth. We just concluded a hugely successful exhibit of the traveling *Gigantics*, an American show of animated prehistoric animals. This exhibit was successful beyond anybody's wildest projections. The Friends of the PMA, who sponsored this organization - it generated more revenue than they ever dreamed it would. The exhibit was held over. Some

families paid time after time; they came dozens of times to see this exhibit and paid their money every time they came. If it's worth seeing, people will come.

She raised the issue of British Columbia, and I know that there was a drop in visitation there. The British Columbia government and people connected with this will tell you that if you ever want to find out how not to do it, use the B.C. method of introducing fees as an example. We of course have been in close contact with them. I've talked to the minister there, and we've had contacts at the staff level. We now understand how you implement it. That's why they're being imposed. As a matter of fact, the first fees will be collected tomorrow. Today is Tuesday; it's a free day. We're well in advance of the visitor season, and we expect this to be a successful, successful program.

I've discussed the human history. The member then moved on to the arts foundation issue, talked about cuts to the department, a formal response to ACT, the Alberta Conference for Theatre, in terms of financing. She describes department funding as being axed, and I don't like the verb. I would say that department funding has been moved. Arts support dollars have been moved from the General Revenue Fund to the Lottery Fund, and it's all been consolidated. So as a result of what we did on the administration side, dollars were removed, people lost their jobs. Things were reorganized, were consolidated, and positions were abolished. I've said this time and time and time again: that's too bad; that's unfortunate. But nowhere does it say that everybody will have the job they want for the rest of their lives, forever. In the current fiscal climate the greater demand of the people of Alberta was to balance that budget, and our small department, a tiny, tiny slice of the pie, made its contribution. Let no one ever say that Main didn't do his job in contributing to balancing the budget.

#### 10:00

The Member for Edmonton-Highlands talked about an erosion of arts funding dollars. She suggested that we should go back to previous levels. Mr. Chairman, I can't believe my ears. Previous levels of funding were lower than they are today. Is that what the member is suggesting? I don't think so. The member again is not really sure what's going on. Over the last few years levels of funding, dollars in the hands of arts recipients, organizations, individuals, facilities, everything, have gone up, up, up, a huge injection of funds to pay down deficits, a huge increase in department budget dollars in the last budget year to match the level of increases to the big eight, and now another increase of dollars because of administrative savings. Arts funding dollars are going up. This government is firmly committed to supporting the cultural scene across the board in this province. We're about the only province in Canada with a stand-alone department of culture. In some other governments, in some other provinces, they're rolled in with municipal affairs. You can't even find them. This government believes in the support of culture as a broad-based, good thing to do, and we're going to continue to do that.

A little bit of talk about the western heritage centre and the location. She makes the allegation that the friends of the Cochrane Ranch don't like this. Some members of the friends of the Cochrane Ranch don't like this - some - but the vast majority of people in the Cochrane area support, number one, the development of this facility and, number two, the location. The location on the site of the Cochrane Ranch historical site was the subject of an intense process in the local community. People from the local community, from the city, from the MD, from the town were involved, western heritage centre propo-

nents, opponents, friends, enemies, the whole shooting match, and a democratic determination of that site was made. Now, I may not agree with the site, you may not agree with the site, and Nic David may not agree with the site, but the majority of people involved with this organization support it, and the people in the community do. The thing is going to get built, and it's going to be a great attraction for the people of Cochrane. The Member for Banff-Cochrane is fully in support of this, and he's been closely involved in this on a day-to-day basis. We are determined and we are sure that this is going to be a great addition to the Cochrane area.

She suggested that there's no support from the private sector. Look at the support from the private sector: in excess of \$5 million raised in the period of just a few months from the private sector, who say: "We want it. Where can I give some money to this? Let's make this thing happen." They are going to do it. Any arguments about whether it should be built looking like this or where it should be built or all the rest of that are comments that should be directed to the western heritage centre itself because they are the proponents who brought this to government. Government agreed this was a good idea, and we're there in partnership with them. They're going to run it, they're going to operate it, and it's going to be a success.

The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, of course, again was reduced to having no ideas of his own and is again reading from the newspaper. I appreciate the clipping there, Edmonton-Mill Woods. I've read many clippings. He's wondering what we are doing and what is the commission doing. Well, you alluded to and quoted from an interdepartmental committee report on English as a Second Language. It should occur to you soon, and may in the next few days, that if there is an interdepartmental report on something, something is going on. There's consultation going on, there's work going on, and advances are being made. English as a Second Language, I'll grant you, is a big, big issue, and it's only going to get bigger. We recognize that, we're out in front of the issue, and we want to get more money for the issue, but doubling, tripling, quadrupling would probably not answer the question. We know that it's there, and we're co-ordinating with the Minister of Education, the Minister of Advanced Education, the Minister of Career Development and Employment, the Minister of Family and Social Services, and our own responsibilities: all moving this issue in advance, ahead of where the issue is, and we're going to get there and we're going to solve it.

He asked questions about the multiculturalism advisory council. It's been promised, it's in legislation, and it's coming. On the question of the human rights issue – I felt like we were studying ancient history here on some of the issues that he raised – the Minister of Labour, I believe, responded to that question on behalf of the chairman of the Human Rights Commission.

He also wanted to know what we were doing about attacks, and he raised the ugly spectre, again ancient history, of the pins and the turbans and all of that which has been dealt with here months, in some cases years, ago in this Legislature by this government. But he raised the question of difficulty with individuals as a result of the Persian Gulf war. The member may have been down at the Daniel Ortega memorial school for election losses trying to figure out some campaign strategy for his campaign next time, but I can tell you that this minister, this government, was first – first – out of the gate with a statement urging calm, urging reasonableness, urging understanding in the face of the tensions that were going on in the Middle East, that they not be spilled over here. There were some isolated reports

of activity on school grounds in Calgary, and there was a statement issued the next day by this minister and this government. To suggest that nothing happened is just at odds with the facts. Obviously, the member had no opportunity to stand up and yell and yell and yell and say nothing was happening, but obviously again the facts of the matter don't get in the way of his statements.

We've had the arguments and the debates in this Chamber about employment equity and the other kinds of things that the member is in favour of, affirmative action. He talks in code a lot about this, but what he's after, I understand, is equal opportunities. If I heard what I was saying, that's what we're after too. Equal opportunities for all Albertans: that's the goal, that's the mandate, that's the push, that's the objective, and that's what we're doing. Where we part company is on methodology. This member and this member's caucus are in favour of legislated, mandated, "you've got to hire that guy" kind of quotas. I can tell you right now that that kind of approach doesn't work. It's not fair to the people, it does not provide equal opportunities, and we're opposed to it.

The Member for Calgary-McKnight – I would again thank the member for her support of our effort to raise some dollars to help support our fiscal plan for the museum with the introduction of fees – raised a number of very specific questions on specific lines in the elements book. I can only say, without going back through the dollars and the intimate, precise details, that all the big changes you see are related to a reorganization of our department from disciplinary lines, which you saw outlined in the elements – visual arts, dance, theatre – into functional lines. So we're comparing a little bit apples and oranges, and that is why in some cases you see a large increase, in some cases a large decrease. The overall budget in Cultural Development, a small decrease reflecting our cuts in manpower and a large decrease in grants reflecting the move of \$3.1 million from the General Revenue Fund into the Lottery Fund in the new foundation: that is essentially what's going on.

Now, one specific question. The internal arts review: who's paying for that? Where's that money coming from? The person doing the arts review is the assistant deputy minister in the department. He's doing the review; that's his job. It's an internal function. What in essence we're doing is a report. We can inventory what we're doing, comparing it to other administrations, and find out where we fit. That's an ongoing, internal process for our own determination and discussion. We're not spending any extraordinary money on it. It's the assistant deputy minister's job. That's what he's doing.

You raised workshops. They're important. We're committed to workshops. We want to have workshops. They've been hugely, hugely successful. They're widely attended and widely praised. We're going to continue to do them. But you see some of the responsibility for who's going to handle them, where they're going to be handled, and which branch – for example, a visual arts workshop would have been in the visual arts branch. We don't have a visual arts branch; we've now got an audience development and a marketing branch. We've got a cultural literacy branch. So things are moving from vertical to horizontal, and there's been a change in dollars, but I can assure the member and I can assure the House that those will continue.

We want to move this along, I know, but this is very, very important, colleagues. This is important, or else we wouldn't be here.

The increase in libraries we've talked about, 2 and a half percent, very generous, but we've got to understand that the provincial portion of library operating dollars is just a small slice.

We provide a base level of support, but libraries are a municipal service, and most of the dollars raised for libraries are in the municipal area. If libraries need more – I've been saying this for years – they've got to look someplace else other than government and the taxpayers, and maybe the time to address the question of where do we get more money has come. A library futures conference last fall addressed that in some small measure. We're providing an ongoing increase to our portion of the pie, but there's a large other chunk of money that has to come from elsewhere. I believe what we're doing is generous, and we believe it's very, very important.

#### 10:10

The Northern Lights board, related to libraries, has been operational. It was established more than a year ago. They had money last year. They had a resource-sharing grant. They got special grants: 80 thousand or 90 thousand bucks last year. Now they're getting their big chunk of dough, they're getting their up-front money, and they're going to be eligible for capital. It's just an ongoing process.

The Library Board reduction: that's an advisory body to the minister. I'm saying: wait a minute; you guys can do your work with less money. They're taking a cut. That's an advisory body internal to the minister, and they're going to continue to do their work with less administrative dollars.

Large drops in vote 3; you see big drops there. That's because some programs ended. The capital construction at the Ukrainian village, some \$300,000-odd dollars: that money is spent; it's over. It comes out of the budget, a 100 percent reduction. Ex Terra: a large chunk of money, a grant program, ends. It comes out of the budget, a 100 percent reduction, and that's of course reflected in the overall vote.

We'll talk about the fees issue, I guess, when that comes to committee.

We talked about layoffs as well. There was some sense that we didn't do this sensitively. Temporary employees who were laid off required under the agreement two weeks' notice; they were given 10 weeks. Everybody in a permanent position who was laid off has been offered redeployment. They've all been offered a voluntary settlement allowance. Nobody wants to be laid off. It's always unpleasant. But our staff and personnel in the personnel department, the deputy minister and others associated with this, I believe have handled this in the most sensitive fashion possible, and I put that to you.

The Member for Edmonton-Whitemud talked a lot about equality, the One Heart, Many Colours program. He wanted to know about de-ethnicizing. I can talk to this a little bit along with the Member for Lacombe, who talked about hyphenated Canadians. Historically, Mr. Chairman, multiculturalism programs have focused on ethnic groups. The way this used to be structured, the Cultural Heritage Council was ethnically driven. If you were a Welshman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Greek, you got on the council because you were ethnic.

In 1991 I want our multiculturalism initiatives to focus on everybody, on everybody. Whether you're Irish or Greek shouldn't have any bearing on it, because everybody is affected by the demographic makeup of the entire province. Everybody is, whether you're here for five minutes or for five generations. We're going to try to take the ethnic focus out of multiculturalism, broaden the base, and try to look at the issues that affect all of us, because there are so many people from so many different ethnic backgrounds here that if you try to focus on each one, you're going to drive yourself nuts and you're going to drive wedges between people. But if you focus on everybody and look

at everybody equally, everybody as Canadians – the people who come here from different lands, from different visible minority groups, and different cultures say to me, "We want to be Canadians." That's what everybody says. Don't we all want to be Canadians? The answer is yes, and that is where we are focusing.

You asked some specific questions about education. In our first year of operation of this multiculturalism advisory council we're going to be setting up, I've asked for sectoral representation, and one of the key sectors is education. We want to get somebody from the Teachers' Association, some school trustees on there. We're going to work with the Department of Education through that advisory council to develop some strategies. We've already got our staff looking and working through a number of work groups at the Department of Education and the Human Rights Commission in this exact area.

We have a major announcement coming up soon about a large multimedia educational component: video, television, textbooks, educational programs. It's coming. It's going to be huge, and it's going to address the exact kind of issue that you raised, Edmonton-Whitemud. This is critical; it's important. The young people are the future of this province, and we want to work with them.

Calgary-Mountain View spoke at the tail end of the evening about racism, and I would be glad to say a word about racism. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, racism is a human problem. Racism is not going to go away. Racism is not a white issue; racism is a human issue. It's regrettable. It's evil, it's ugly, and it hurts people. But ministers, as individuals and as a government, absolutely abhor the kinds of things that went on in Provost last summer. We absolutely abhor the kinds of things that happened to the gentleman in Sherwood Park. I have acquaintances who have been subjected to the kind of physical abuse and punishment and terrorism that you describe by members of that white supremacist group.

Strategies to deal with it: well, we've adopted one already. Focus 2000 was a business conference that was mentioned by my colleague the chairman of the Multiculturalism Commission. At that conference one of the members there was a town official from the town of Provost. He attended that. Members of the commission had been in the town working with the people there to help them get a sense of what to do if this happens again, to try to put the community in a sense of understanding so they can deal with these kinds of terrible issues, so that the entire town doesn't get painted with the same brush that those few bent individuals have. We're working with people. We're doing that across the province.

If we focus solely on an antiracism stance, I think we are moving backwards. I'm trying to be out in front of the issue. The federal government has focused on racism taking the antiracism approach, and that's good. There's no need to duplicate that. We have a Human Rights Commission that deals in that area; no need to duplicate that. What we can do as a commission is be out in front and be involved in the education process and work with people who come in contact with it. Sometimes events and issues make it difficult, make it painful for us to do our work, but we're going to continue to be there.

Mr. Chairman, the budget of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism is down a little bit; it's down about 9 percent this year from last year. But the real change is slightly less than 3 percent when you look at those dollars that have moved. We've got enough resources there to continue to provide outstanding experiences for visitors to museums and interpretive centres, enough resources to continue to provide vast support to



the arts communities across the province, and enough resources to continue to do the outstanding out-front work we're doing in the multicultural area.

Mr. Chairman, I'm proud to be here tonight. I want to thank the staff who've been here all night enduring some of the painful exercise of being deprived of the last few minutes of the hockey game, which I hope, based on the motion of the Government House Leader, we'll be able to get to shortly.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee now rise and report and request leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the Assembly agreed with the report of the Member for Lacombe?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

[At 10:19 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]

