



Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1996-97

Saskatchewan
Intergovernmental
Affairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL	2
MANDATE AND LEGISLATION.....	4
HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.....	5
ORGANIZATION.....	6
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS.....	7
CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS.....	11
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.....	12
PROTOCOL OFFICE.....	15
TRADE POLICY.....	18
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	19
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING POLICY.....	21
OFFICE OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE CO-ORDINATION.....	23
CANADIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT.....	25
ADMINISTRATION.....	26
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	27

TRANSMITTAL

To His Honour the Honourable J.E.N. Wiebe
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

We respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernhard H. Wiens
Minister
Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Shillington
Provincial Secretary

TRANSMITTAL

To the Honourable Bernhard H. Wiens
Minister of Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Affairs

To the Honourable Ned Shillington
Provincial Secretary

Dear Mr. Wiens and Mr. Shillington:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the year ending March 31, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Brent Cotter
Deputy Minister and
Deputy Provincial Secretary

MANDATE - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The mandate of the Department is to protect and promote Saskatchewan's interests through the strategic management of the Province's relations with other governments and their agencies in Canada and abroad. The Department assists in the development, coordination and implementation of the intergovernmental activities of the government's departments and agencies. It is directly responsible for the conduct of the Province's policies regarding trade, telecommunications and broadcasting, constitutional relations and for the management of several interdepartmental international agreements. The Department also manages all matters related to official protocol and coordination of French language services and provides administrative services to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

LEGISLATION

The Minister has responsibility for the following Acts and Regulations:

The Provincial Secretary's Act and Regulations

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs Regulations, 1996

The Community Cablecaster Act

The Telephone Department Act

The Rural Telephone Act

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following is an example of some of the highlights and achievements realized throughout the department in the 1996-97 fiscal year:

- Saskatchewan contributed to the initiation and progress of several key initiatives, including: intergovernmental agreement on the National Child Benefit; initiation of discussions towards a National Children's Agenda; a national policy development framework on benefits and services for persons with disabilities; preliminary work on cooperative mechanisms to promote national principles and standards; and initial preparation to address federal off-loading of the costs for services to Aboriginal people.
- Coordinated executive government support for the Premier's involvement in the 1997 Team Canada mission to South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.
- Coordinated visits of ambassadors or high commissioners of thirteen countries, including some of our key trading partners that visited the province from: Bangladesh, Britain, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and Ukraine. As well, one of China's most senior leaders, Qiao Shi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, paid a high-profile visit to Regina.
- In the international trade arena, Saskatchewan had the lead role in developing a paper on the role of the provinces on international trade policy which was presented to Premiers at the 1996 Annual Premiers' Conference.
- Assisted in the implementation of the second stage of long distance competition, allowing alternate long distance carriers to connect their facilities with those of SaskTel.
- Participated in follow-up activities to the second meeting of Ministers responsible for Francophone Affairs in the areas of economic development, cooperation among government translation services, and the Internet. As well, assisted the Department of Health in final revision of bilingual change of name and vital statistics forms.

ORGANIZATION

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Objective

To advance Saskatchewan's objectives and interests through its relations with the federal government and the governments of other Canadian provinces/territories.

Overview

During 1996-97, the intergovernmental relations environment was characterized by significant progress in social policy reform and renewal efforts aimed at addressing major social policy issues, rebalancing federal and provincial roles and responsibilities, and strengthening Canada's Social Union.

During 1996-97, Saskatchewan's participation in three Premiers' Conferences and a First Ministers' Meeting was coordinated by the Branch. The Western Premiers' Conference (WPC) was held June 3-5, 1996, in Dawson City, Yukon. A First Ministers' meeting took place in Ottawa, June 20- 1996. The Annual Premiers' Conference (APC) was held August 21-23, 1996, in Jasper, Alberta. A meeting between Premiers and Aboriginal Leaders took place in Calgary on October 28, 1996.

In addition, Premier Roy Romanow met with Northwest Territory Premier Don Morin on April 19, 1996, in Regina and with federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stephane Dion in Ottawa on April 26, 1996. Premier Romanow met with Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Saskatoon on March 7, 1997.

Saskatchewan's Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs, the Honourable Ned Shillington, participated in three meetings of the Provincial/Territorial and two meetings of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministerial Council on Social Policy Renewal. Saskatchewan made a substantial contribution to advancing the agenda for social policy renewal at these meetings and at meetings of Councils of Ministers in social policy areas.

In particular, Saskatchewan contributed to the initiation and progress of several key initiatives, including: intergovernmental agreement on the National Child Benefit; initiation of discussions towards a National Children's Agenda; a national policy development framework on benefits and services for persons with disabilities; preliminary work on cooperative mechanisms to promote national principles and standards; and initial preparation to address federal offloading of the costs for services to Aboriginal people.

The Annual and Western Premiers' Conferences successfully advanced provincial interests on key regional and national issues to the federal government and facilitated interprovincial and regional cooperation on a number of fronts.

The Western Premiers' Conference, in Dawson City, Yukon, was held three weeks before a meeting of First Ministers. The timing of the Conference provided Western Premiers with an opportunity to discuss and advance western priorities for consideration at the First Ministers' Meeting, primarily related to administrative reform of the Federation, and social policy renewal.

Western Premiers strongly endorsed the Ministerial Council Report on Social Policy Reform and Renewal initiated by Premiers at the 1995 Annual Premiers' Conference. Premiers agreed to seek the agreement of First Ministers on a series of steps to advance the Report's recommendations, including: consideration, on a priority basis, of a coordinated national strategy to reduce child poverty; and development of a National Child Benefit proposal.

In addition, Western Premiers discussed issues related to clarifying roles and responsibilities between orders of government, the northern economy, transportation, securities regulation, international trade, internal trade, and western cooperation. With respect to international trade, Western Premiers emphasized the need for discussions with the federal government, on formalizing the roles of provinces and territories in the negotiation, and on implementation of international agreements that involve provincial areas of jurisdiction and economic interests. Premiers also strongly objected to the U.S. actions on agricultural matters including the export subsidy provisions of the U.S. agricultural trade bill, and called upon the federal government to take strong and expedient actions. Premiers discussed means to promote more cooperation among western provinces, including examining innovative program delivery alternatives for increased interjurisdictional cooperation.

Saskatchewan's primary objective at the First Ministers' Meeting held in Ottawa on June 20-21, 1996, was to make child poverty a national priority. First Ministers agreed that child poverty and the development of a National Child Benefit program would be pursued on a priority basis. The 1997-98 federal budget allocated \$850M toward the development of a National Child Benefit.

In addition, First Ministers agreed: to pursue negotiations towards the orderly transfer of social housing to provinces; to proceed with federal withdrawal from the management of fresh water fish habitat; and to examine the feasibility of establishing a Phase 11 Infrastructure Works Program. First Ministers also agreed to proceed with negotiations towards establishment of a National Revenue Collection Agency and negotiations on how to best establish a National Food Inspection Agency. First Ministers directed Ministers of the Environment to complete the work on Environmental Harmonization and report back to First Ministers in November 1996.

At the 1996 Annual Premiers' Conference held in Jasper, Alberta on August 21-23, Saskatchewan was successful in advancing its social policy renewal priorities. Premiers reviewed and released a paper, "Social Policy Reform and Renewal: Next Steps" and approved the recommendations for action contained in the paper, including the development of an integrated national child benefit.

Saskatchewan also led the discussions on Agriculture and International Trade at the APC. Three primary issues were discussed: provincial and territorial participation in the making and management of international trade treaties; trade dispute management with the United States; and provincial/territorial participation in Team Canada trade missions. Premiers supported a paper initiated by Saskatchewan, "Towards Formal Provincial Participation in the Making and Management of International Trade Policy", which called for a formal process or arrangement between the federal, provincial and territorial governments that takes into account the increasing impact international treaties are having on provincial and territorial jurisdictions.

Saskatchewan raised issues in regard to agricultural trade dispute management and emphasized that Canada's grains trade policy must not be dictated by protectionists from the United States.

Premiers supported greater intergovernmental coordination in the vigorous assertion of Canada's trading rights and pursuit of trade remedies.

In addition, Premiers held wide-ranging discussions on key economic, social and intergovernmental issues of importance to Canadians. Premiers, except the Premier of Quebec, agreed that a non-constitutional rebalancing of roles and responsibilities between federal, provincial and territorial orders of government in non-social policy areas is an essential part of improving the operations of the Canadian federal system. Provinces and territories agreed upon the need to look at all options, in conjunction with the federal government, for providing in a more cost-effective way, the highquality services that Canadians demand. Premiers directed their Intergovernmental Ministers to develop a three- year workplan for rebalancing federal, provincial and territorial roles and responsibilities for consideration at the 1997 Annual Premiers' Conference.

Premiers also directed that options for intergovernmental mechanisms or processes to develop and promote adherence to national principles and standards be prepared for consideration at the 1997 APC.

During the APC, a commitment was made by Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta to invite Premiers to participate in a debriefing meeting on the APC with leaders of National Aboriginal organizations. The meeting was held in Calgary on October 28, 1996. Premiers Klein, Filmon (Manitoba), Morin (NWT), McDonald (Yukon) and Romanow participated in the meeting attended by representatives of the Assembly of First Nations, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, Native Women's Association of Canada and Metis National Council. In addition to providing a summary of the discussions at the APC, Premiers and Aboriginal leaders discussed federal offloading of responsibility for services to Aboriginal peoples and issues related to social policy reform.

The meeting between Premier Roy Romanow and Premier Don Morin on April 19, 1996, provided an opportunity for the Premiers to discuss issues related to the upcoming Western Premiers' Conference.

The purpose of the meeting between Premier Romanow and newly-appointed federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stephane Dion on April 26, 1996, was to discuss and update the Ministers on priority federal-provincial issues, including the Efficiency of the Federation Action Plan, Environmental Harmonization, Regulation of Uranium Mining and Milling, labour market negotiations, and crop insurance. The meeting between Premier Romanow and Prime Minister Chretien on March 7, 1997, provided the Premier with the opportunity to discuss the federal budget and key federalprovincial priorities with the Prime Minister in advance of the federal election.

During 1996-97, Saskatchewan negotiated a successful conclusion to a number of bilateral issues of importance to Saskatchewan. The province signed over forty agreements with the federal government including, for example: Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement, extended Infrastructure Works Agreement, Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention) Implementation Act Agreement, Child Support Guidelines Agreement, Tax Collection Agreement, Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement and Western Canadian Milk Pooling Agreement.

CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Objective

To provide policy advice on issues pertaining to the Canadian federal state and their impact on Saskatchewan interests and prepares- and coordinates Saskatchewan's input for formal constitutional meetings, discussions and negotiations.

Overview

The Constitutional Relations Branch provided policy advice to the government on the following matters:

- the appropriate responses from the Government of Saskatchewan on national efforts to foster Canadian unity;
- examination of the changing nature of the Canadian federal state, how it is affecting relationships between the governments within Canada, and its impact on Saskatchewan's interests in the longterm;
- response to intergovernmental initiatives which bear on the constitutional role of the Government of Saskatchewan or that alter the basic structural framework in which Saskatchewan policy is developed;
- participation in the development and implementation of an Aboriginal self-government framework and examination of the implications for ,the constitutional framework in which Saskatchewan operates;
- review of agreements between the Government of Saskatchewan and Aboriginal organizations which have an impact on Saskatchewan's intergovernmental positions.

During 1996-97, the Branch was involved in the planning and preparation of several meetings of First Ministers on national unity and Aboriginal issues, as well as preparing the Premier and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs for major public speaking events and meetings with other important individuals and groups on the future of the Canadian federation. The Branch also advised the Premier and Cabinet on how Saskatchewan could most effectively address the national unity issue.

The Branch was also active in the province's evolving relationship with Aboriginal groups. The Branch participated in discussions with representatives of Saskatchewan Metis on initiatives for Metis people and worked with Saskatchewan Indian and Metis Affairs Secretariat and other departments on an array of issues of importance to Saskatchewan's Aboriginal communities, including the implementation of First Nations selfgovernment and ensuring that the federal government fulfils its responsibilities to Aboriginal peoples.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Objective

To coordinate, develop and implement policies and programs of the Government of Saskatchewan in its relations with the governments of foreign jurisdictions and the governing bodies of international organizations and their institutions.

Overview

The International Relations Branch is dedicated to the coordination and strategic planning of the province's international relations. In 1996-97 the Branch was active on all continents.

The Branch provides technical advice and support to the Protocol Office with respect to the implementation of its international visitors' and awards' programs.

During this year, the Branch also worked closely with the new Trade Policy Branch to advance federal-provincial negotiations leading to a formal role for provinces in the making and management of international trade treaties.

Asia

The Branch coordinated executive government support for the Premier's involvement in the 1997 Team Canada mission to South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. Saskatchewan is amongst the most trade-dependent of all Canadian provinces, and the dynamic Asia-Pacific region accounts for almost a third of our international exports. This third 'Team Canada' mission to Asia built on our trade base in the region.

South Korea currently ranks third in Asia as a destination for Saskatchewan exports, mostly grains, oilseeds and potash. However, value-added exports such as malt, wood pulp and uranium concentrate are also increasingly important. The Philippines' economy, and Canadian exports to it, have grown rapidly over the past three years in response to changes in that country's economic development strategy. Saskatchewan's export interests in the Philippines include Canadian Wheat Board grains, special crops, potash and telecommunications. In Thailand, Saskatchewan's current export interests include wheat, special crops and potash.

The Branch negotiated a Sixth Plan of Action enabling continued implementation of the Sister-Province relationship between Saskatchewan and Jilin Province, China. The Sixth Plan of Action builds on a significant shift in Saskatchewan's approach to relations with Jilin developed during the 5th Plan of Action, including:

- the adoption of a longer-term time frame and a narrower focus on specific economic development projects, with two-year 'milestones' for performance evaluation;

- the provision of a gradual increase in private sector involvement, and a gradual decrease in direct provincial government involvement in each project;
- the development of a simplified and more consistent management and financing structure within the provincial government in order to administer this program (a consolidated International Fund subvote in the Intergovernmental Affairs budget was established for this purpose as a result of previous discussions between Finance and the Provincial Secretary.)

The Sixth Plan of Action will address economic priorities in a practical and mutually beneficial fashion. It contains 22 cooperative economic development initiatives in such sectors as agriculture, aquaculture, energy, cultural industries, education and municipal twinning.

The Branch coordinated the Government of Saskatchewan's involvement in federal APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and CYAP (Canada's Year of the Asia Pacific) events. This included two highprofile events that would be brought into Saskatchewan under the Branches initiative:

- an APEC conference addressing the important linkages between food, energy, the environment, economic development and population growth; and,
- a policy conference of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs addressing the priorities of our relationship with the Asia-Pacific.

North America

The Branch was active in federalprovincial trade policy matters affecting Saskatchewan's market access to the free trade area created by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). More generally, the Branch participated in several federalprovincial efforts to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of Canadian governments' 'advocacy' efforts in the U.S. political system. These and other matters of interest to western provinces and states were also addressed through the Deputy Premier's participation in this year's annual meeting of the Western Governors' Association in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Branch also consulted in discussions to enhance transportation linkages between Saskatchewan and Mexico with the objective of consolidating Saskatchewan's presence in NAFTA's third country partner.

Europe

In December 1996, the federal government undertook an initiative to renew the expansion of Canada- European Union economic and political relations, with the signing of a new Joint Political Declaration on Canada-European Union relations and a new Joint Action Plan. In conjunction with relevant departments and agencies, the Branch has begun to coordinate the province's participation in this new action plan as well as the trade issue working groups which make up the Canada-European Union cooperative consultative mechanism. The province's efforts toward the further

expansion of commercial relations with the European Union are currently focused on strategic partnerships and investment attraction in the agriculture biotechnology sector and the promotion of agriculture machinery exports.

In Eastern Europe, over this period, the Branch managed the consolidation and implementation of the first plan of action under the province's bilateral Memorandum of Cooperation with the national government of Ukraine. Highlights of activities implemented under that agreement include:

- technical assistance to help the Ukrainian government establish a competitive fiscal and regulatory structure for the oil and gas sector and the participation of Saskatchewan energy companies in oil field development projects in Ukraine;
- SaskPower Commercial's \$3.5M Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contract to provide technical and managerial assistance for the rehabilitation of one of Ukraine's major thermal power plants;
- the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Demonstration Farm Project which has resulted in sales of Saskatchewan agricultural machinery and seeds; and,
- the development of numerous successful joint ventures in film production, television and book publishing involving Saskatchewan's cultural industries.

The Branch also provided support for the Deputy Premier's trade mission to Ukraine in October 1996 in conjunction with the first meeting of the CanadaUkraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission, a new bilateral business forum established by the national governments of Canada and Ukraine to encourage economic cooperation and to identify and remedy systemic impediments to increased bilateral trade and investment.

The Branch continued to be active in the Russian Federation as well, participating in the training component of the Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program, managed by the University of Saskatchewan.

Africa

Over this period, the Branch assisted Executive Council with implementation of its Governance Exchange Program with the South African Province of Free State. The South-African-Canada Governance Program is funded by CIDA but implemented by Saskatchewan and other participating provinces. Under the program Saskatchewan helps to strengthen the professional resources of senior officials charged with building new governance structures in the Free State. In March the Branch planned and hosted the first visit of the new Premier of Free State, Dr. Ivy Matsepe Casaburri to Saskatchewan for discussions related to this program as well as opportunities for the expansion of commercial relations between the province and the Free State.

Development Assistance

With the transfer of responsibility for "The Matching Grants in Aid Program" (MGIAP) from the Department of Agriculture and Food to Intergovernmental Affairs, the Branch now has full responsibility for the Province's formal development assistance programs.

In the Fall of 1996, the Branch began discussions with SCIC in a new Joint Liaison Committee of Officials, on options for ensuring the continued viability of that organization given the recent cancellation of core funding of all provincially-based aid organizations by the federal government.

PROTOCOL OFFICE

Objective

To plan, organize and supervise visits of foreign diplomats, heads of state and government delegations. It also oversees state ceremonial and symbols and provides protocol consulting services and policy and organization of provincial honours programs.

Official Visits

During the 1996-97 fiscal year the Protocol Office handled 41 official visits, nearly double the number in the previous year. The ambassadors or high commissioners of thirteen countries, including some of our key trading partners, visited the province: Bangladesh, Britain, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and Ukraine. Other diplomats came from Britain, China, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine and the U.S.

One of China's most senior leaders, Qiao Shi, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, paid a highprofile visit to Regina. The Premier of the South African province of Free State visited our province to reinforce our special link with Free State. The South African Minister of Health also came to Saskatchewan. Canadian diplomats from postings in the Czech Republic, France, Japan, the United States, UNESCO and the World Trade Organization came to brief ministers and officials on these countries and organizations.

Saskatchewan welcomed major delegations from China and Ukraine in the context of our special relationships with these countries, as well as groups from Hong Kong and Germany. The Office assisted the international staff of Intergovernmental Affairs with preparation of substantive briefing material for visits.

Official Functions and State Occasions

Among the special events arranged by the Protocol Office in 1996-97 were:

- Reserve Force Day at the Legislature in April 1996 to recognize army, navy and air force reservists from Saskatchewan, many of whom have served in UN peacekeeping missions overseas;
- the annual recognition event for recipients of national and provincial honours in May 1996;
- the twelfth investiture of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in October 1996;
- annual service of Remembrance at the Legislative Building in November 1996;
- the Christmas Lights across Canada event at the Legislature in December 1996;

- Premier's recognition dinner for three Saskatchewan recipients of the Governor General's Literary Awards, in February 1997;
- a special celebration of Commonwealth Day at the Legislature in March 1997;
- the second presentation of the 'Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, also in March 1997 at the Legislature.

Anniversaries

The Protocol Office prepared preliminary plans for the province's centennial in 2005 and for the millennium in 2000. It also established and chaired an inter-agency committee of officials to consider recommendations for the government on these significant anniversaries.

Honours and Awards

The Protocol Office, in its capacity as honours and awards secretariat, is responsible for official honours of the provincial Crown, advice on and coordination of departmental awards, and recognition of Saskatchewan recipients of national honours such as the Order of Canada and Bravery Decorations. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, marked its twelfth year and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal its second.

During 1996-97, the Office prepared for Cabinet's consideration of a new award program to recognize residents of other countries or other provinces/territories of Canada who have made substantial contributions to Saskatchewan's wellbeing. The Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award program was approved for launching in 1997-98.

Government House

Government House is shared by three tenants: the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; the heritage property and museum directed by the Department of Municipal Government; and a hospitality facility managed by the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation.

During 1996-97, the Government House Management Committee, chaired by the Chief of Protocol, at the request of the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier undertook a review of the mandate and procedures of Government House. As a result of this exercise, the committee issued a revised policy on use of the facility by both governmental and nongovernmental organizations and commenced a long-range planning process to maximize benefits of this historic asset for the people of Saskatchewan.

Other Duties

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, Protocol staff managed the central government gift policy and bank and coordinated the art collection and galleries in the Legislative Building.

TRADE POLICY

Objective

To develop policies and represent the Province's position on trade and investment policy issues in various international and internal trade negotiations under various forums and agreements. It also manages Saskatchewan's participation in the resolution of trade disputes.

Overview

In the Fall of 1996, the Trade Policy Branch was transferred from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Trade Policy Branch is responsible for:

- developing Saskatchewan's positions on Canada's international trade negotiation agenda, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI);
- managing the province's response in trade disputes that affect Saskatchewan industry and the province's role in implementing Canadian and international trade agreements;
- developing provincial positions on internal trade issues between the federal and provincial governments; and
- managing the negotiation of outstanding issues under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

This year the Trade Policy Branch developed a paper outlining a comprehensive trade policy framework for the Province which was presented to Cabinet for consideration. The paper outlined the trade objectives the province should support when undertaking future trade negotiations both internationally and internally.

It also requested Cabinet approval on specific trade issues in support of these trade objectives.

In the international trade arena, Saskatchewan had the lead role in developing a paper on the role of the provinces on international trade policy which was presented to Premiers at the 1996 Annual Premiers' Conference. The purpose of the paper was to promote a preliminary federal-provincial dialogue on the elements of a formal understanding between the federal government and the provinces concerning the provinces' role in international trade.

Specific issues in the international trade area in which Saskatchewan participated are:

- revamping the federal-provincial committee on trade (C-TRADE) which provides for a more consultative process on trade policy issues between the provinces and the federal government;

- working with the federal government through the conclusion of the WTO negotiation on telecommunications which retained SaskTel's existing arrangement with the CRTC;
- participating with the federal government in the preliminary work on the WTO negotiations on financial services, including identification of provincial measures that would be reserved from coverage;
- undertaking preliminary work with other provinces and the federal government on issues regarding the MAI.

Under the AIT, the provinces and deral government worked toward solving specific outstanding issues in the Agreement. These included:

- negotiating special provisions to extend the AIT procurement provisions to the municipalities, academic institutions, school boards and health care institutions (MASH) and Crown corporations;
- negotiating the inclusion of specific professional services into the Procurement Chapter of the AIT;
- negotiating the removal of agriculture technical barriers with policy implications under the Agriculture and Food Chapter by September 1, 1997;
- working toward harmonizing standards among professional associations under the Labour Mobility Chapter.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Objective

To provide administrative services to the Queen's representative in Saskatchewan, arrange hospitality events and ceremonial and constitutional functions of the vice-regal office, and provide liaison with the Government. It also coordinates the Province's anniversary messages.

Overview

The Lieutenant Governor, as the Chief Executive Officer of the province:

- summons and dissolves the Legislature, recalls its members and prorogues its sessions;
- formally names the Premier and swears in Cabinet;
- reads the Speech from the Throne;
- gives Royal Assent to bills; and
- signs provincial proclamations, Letters Patent and orders-in council.

In Saskatchewan, the Lieutenant Governor is the Chancellor of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor, representing the province's citizens in a non-partisan manner, lends patronage to the arts and volunteer organizations; visits schools and makes speeches to various organizations; presents medals and awards; and sends out appropriate birthday and anniversary greetings.

Activities

The Lieutenant Governor attended 269 official functions and delivered 118 speeches from April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997. Royal Assent was given to 78 Bills during the Second

Session of the 23rd Legislature in the Province of Saskatchewan. Major functions hosted by the Lieutenant Governor included:

- 26th Annual Saskatchewan Prayer Breakfast;
- Cadet Concert at the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts;
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards Presentation and Tea & Tour;
- Lieutenant Governor's Institute of Public Administration of Canada Medal Presentation;
- Tourism Day Open House at Government House;

- Third Age Learning International Studies Tour and Tea;
- a reception at Government House for HMCS REGINA Crew;
- Citizenship Courts;
- co-hosted with the Premier, a luncheon for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Board of Directors and guests;
- a reception for the Canadian Infantry Association;
- Royal Life Saving Society Awards Presentation Tea and Tour at Government House;
- a reception for the Canadian Western Agribition;
- Gift of Giving for School Children at Government House (joint function with Government House Museum Staff);
- a luncheon at Government House for the Saskatoon Canadian Club;
- a reception for the LaRonge School Board, Town Council & Community Leaders in LaRonge;
- a dinner for the Northern Education and Northern Lights School Board in LaRonge;
- Saskatchewan Youth Parliament Tour and Dinner at Government House;
- 1997 New Year's Day Levee; a reception for all the MLAs for the Legislative Opening;
- a reception in conjunction with the Association of Professional Engineers Proclamation Signing;
- presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Awards and hosted a dinner for Canada Post/SARM officials in Saskatoon;
- a dinner at Government House in honour of the Step Down of Military Headquarters in Saskatchewan.

The Lieutenant Governor visited several schools during the year and participated in the Eighth Annual Northern Education Tour to present Lieutenant Governor Awards of Excellence to Grade 7-12 students in northern Saskatchewan.

The Office coordinates congratulatory messages for the province. There were 2,075 congratulatory messages prepared by this Office as well as nearly 3,400 forms to advise other offices of these special occasions.

The official portrait for the Lieutenant Governor was completed.

The website for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan was created for the Internet and can be found at www.gov.sk.ca/iga/LGO. (The Internet address for the Department is www.gov.sk.ca/govt/intergov.)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING POLICY

Objective

To ensure that the regulatory environment, internally and externally to the Province, accounts for Saskatchewan interests. It also undertakes to increase awareness and understanding of the trends and opportunities in this sector.

This is undertaken by:

- development and presentation of Saskatchewan concerns to the quasi-judicial process of the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);
- co-ordination of concerns and information sharing among various organizations external and internal to government (SaskTel, cable operators, communities, cultural demand services, and groups, government departments);
- acting as a focal point for federal/provincial interaction in this sector; e.g., federal/provincial consultation issues.

1996-97 Accomplishments and Activities

The Telecommunications and Broadcasting Policy Branch during the year:

- assisted in the implementation of the second stage of long distance competition, allowing alternate long distance carriers to connect their facilities with those of SaskTel. This included support for the external competition chairperson whose mandate was to oversee the creation of a fair negotiation structure between SaskTel and alternative carriers;
- developed and presented various Saskatchewan policy positions to the federal government including a proposal for a national universal access fund for rural and remote areas, restructuring of broadcast regulation, regulation of video-on convergence and regulation of telecommunications services offered by broadcast carriers;
- continued work with federal government and SaskTel to ensure harmonization of national and provincial policies as a result of the CRTC moratorium from regulation of SaskTel;
- participated in the development of the SaskHealth initiative to implement a telemedicine trial for remote consultation and diagnosis in northern Saskatchewan;
- provided policy advice to the government for the first Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of the Information Highway meeting;
- examined the implications of and provided policy advice on the impact of the restructuring and withdrawal of the CBC in Saskatchewan;

- in partnership with other departments, developed groundwork for a provincial new media business strategy;
- assisted a Saskatchewan consortium in the development of an application to Industry Canada for spectrum to deliver wireless cable.

OFFICE OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE COORDINATION

Objective

To assist and coordinate provincial initiatives in the area of French language services and provide linguistic support and a translation service to Government departments. It also liaises with the Francophone community in the Province.

Overview

The Office of French-Language Coordination (OFLC) is part of the 1988 Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Advancement of the Status and Use of French and English in Saskatchewan. The Agreement provides for:

- the translation of laws/judicial services;
- French education;
- the delivery of French-language governmental services.

OFLC co-manages the Agreement with the federal department of Canadian Heritage.

Client Groups

The following is a listing of client groups that were dealt with throughout the year:

- provincial government departments, MLAs and the Legislative Assembly by providing:
- linguistic support and translation services;
- community liaison;
- coordination of provincial government French-language initiatives.
- Saskatchewan's Francophone community and bilingual residents by:
- providing information on government programs and departments;
- serving as liaison between the community and government.

Translation and Linguistic Support

In the 1996-1997 fiscal year, the translation and linguistic-support unit:

- entered into some 43 contracts totalling approximately \$25,600 with 14 different Saskatchewan freelance translators;
- spent approximately 312 hours on *specific* revision requests, mainly bilingual statutes in cooperation with the Department of Justice;
- assisted the Department of Health in final revision of bilingual change of name and vital statistics forms;
- began distribution of *Le Gouvernement de la Saskatchewan de A à Z/The Government of Saskatchewan from A to Z* (bilingual index);
- advised the French media and the Francophone community on the subject of the correct French equivalents on a variety of subjects relating to the provincial government;
- completed a number of large translation projects. These projects include:
 - a French version of *Project Soils*, a program collaboration with the departments of Education and Environment and Resource Management and the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association; translated into French documentation on the Canadian Light Source project for the Department of Economic Development;
 - translated into French the *Hearing Conservation for Farm Families* and *Farm Response Accident Preparedness for Farm Families* information kits from Agriculture and Food.
- assisted provincial participation in national conferences by providing translation of working papers, submissions, agendas and other related documents.

Awareness and Liaison

In the 1996-1997 fiscal year, OFLC staff:

- participated in major meetings, conferences and events held by Saskatchewan's francophone community, in particular the Fete francosaskoise and the Rendez-vous francosaskois (ACFC Annual General Meeting);
- met periodically with francophone community representatives to learn about their priority projects as well as any concerns with respect to provincial programs and services;
- continued to provide members of the French-speaking public and francophone community associations with general information on provincial programs and services;
- met with departmental officials to assist with various French-language initiatives and to explain the mandate and services of the Office;

- assisted Francophone community representatives and government officials in preparation for National Francophone Week (March 16- 23);
- attended a meeting of the subcommittee on the implementation of sections 41 and 42 of *The Official Languages Act* as an observer to learn of federal department and agencies plans to provide services to the province's francophone community;
- attended a meeting of senior federal/provincial/territorial officials responsible for French-language services to discuss preparations for a third ministers meeting;
- participated in follow-up activities to the second meeting of ministers responsible for francophone affairs, which included:
- attended the first national forum for francophone entrepreneurs;
- exchanged information with government translation offices from across the country with a view to finding potential partnerships;
- commenced initial development of OFLC home page for possible inclusion as part of a proposed national government Frenchlanguage services website.
- began preliminary discussions with federal officials on the renewal of agreements for French-language services initiatives after current agreements expire in 1998.

CANADIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Objective

To provide an annual grant to the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat (CICS). This program provides a grant to the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat (CICS) for secretariat support services which it provides in preparation for and during federal-provincial and interprovincial meetings of First Ministers, Premiers, Ministers, and senior officials. The CICS is jointly funded by the federal and provincial governments.

ADMINISTRATION

Objective

To provide financial, administrative, human resource and systems support to the department.

Major Activities

Although the Department of Finance continued to provide some human resource and administrative support, the the Administration Branch performed the following activities:

- budget preparation, forecasting of revenues and expenditures, and coordination of the Committee of Finance briefing materials;
- coordinated purchases of computer equipment and software, and provided systems support and training;
- coordinated space renovations, telephones, office equipment and furniture; and coordinated responses to requests under The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

1996-97 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Estimates (\$0005)	Actuals (\$0005)	Variance (\$0005)	Notes
Revenue				
Federal Contributions & Other Miscellaneous Revenue	181	186	5	1
Expenses				
Administration	781	711	(70)	2.
Accommodation and Central Services	600	668	68	3.
Protocol Office	310	289	(21)	4.
Federal-Provincial Relations	360	400	40	5.
International Relations	794	647	(147)	6.
Constitutional Relations	191	352	161	7.
Telecommunications and Broadcasting Policy	555	367	(188)	8.
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	248	249	1	
Office of French-Language Co-ordination	164	160	(4)	9.
Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat	46	44	(2)	10.
Total Expenditures	4,049	3,887	(162)	
FTE Staff Complement	43.5	38.9	(4.6)	

1. Unanticipated cost-sharing revenue under the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Plan of Action.
2. Actuals were lower than anticipated due to vacancy management.
3. Accommodation pressures as well as renovation costs for the Trade Policy and Telecommunications and Broadcasting Policy Units.
4. Actuals were lower than anticipated due to vacancy management.
5. Actuals were higher than anticipated due to relocation and travel expenses.
6. Actuals were lower than anticipated due to higher federal contributions for the Ukraine Memorandum of Cooperation partially offset by costs associated with the transfer of Trade Policy from Economic Development.
7. Additional resources needed in the Constitutional Branch to respond to issues with Quebec and the referendum.
8. Actuals were lower than anticipated as a result of the transfer of the Information Technology Unit to Economic Development.
9. Actuals were lower as a result of vacancy management.
10. The provincial share for the Secretariat's services was less than anticipated.