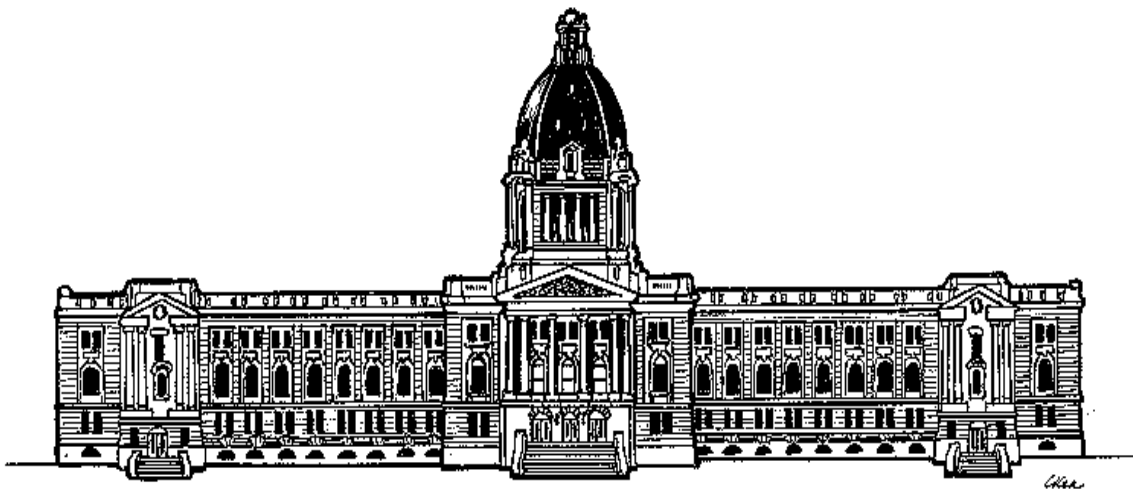




STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, Chair
Regina Rosemont

Mr. Lyle Stewart, Deputy Chair
Thunder Creek

Ms. Jennifer Campeau
Saskatoon Fairview

Mr. Herb Cox
The Battlefords

Mr. Glen Hart
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Mr. Warren Michelson
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Corey Tochor
Saskatoon Eastview

[The committee met at 09:52.]

The Chair: — Well good morning. We'll begin the considerations as it relates to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. I'll briefly introduce committee members: Deputy Chair Mr. Stewart, Mr. Michelson, Mr. Hart, Mr. Tochor, and Ms. Campeau are here today. A brief introduction of our agenda, we're going to be considering our audit committee nominees for this term, and we're going to discuss and consider representation at the CCPAC [Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees] conference in August of 2012.

At this point in time, I'd like to table three documents or a few documents: PAC [Public Accounts Committee] 9/27, Ministry of Health reporting of public losses for the period from October 1st, 2011 to December 31st, 2011, dated February 3rd, 2012; PAC 10/27, Ministry of Finance reporting of public losses for the period from October 1st, 2011 to December 31st, 2011, dated February 3rd, 2012; PAC 11/27, Ministry of Finance reporting of public losses for the period from January 1st, 2012 to March 31st, 2012, dated May 4th, 2012; PAC 12/27, Ministry of Health reporting of public losses for the period from January 1st, 2012 to March 31st, 2012, dated May 3rd, 2012.

Our first item on the agenda is consideration of audit committee candidates. We've received nominees from organizations across the province. What I would ask at this point in time is for a member to move that this meeting move in camera. Mr. Tochor moves. All in favour? So moved.

[The committee continued in camera from 09:54 until 10:14.]

The Chair: — Continuing on with the considerations here this morning, I believe at this point in time I would entertain, following some in-camera discussion, would entertain a motion as it relates to recommendations for the audit committee that would be stemming from the nominees that we've received.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move:

That the Chair consult with the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies prior to forwarding the audit committee member recommendations to the Speaker.

[10:15]

The Chair: — Moved by Mr. Stewart. All in favour? So moved.

We'll move along to our agenda items. There's an annual conference, CCPAC conference, that's the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees. This conference goes on once a year and provides an opportunity for Public Accounts members, auditors, clerks to come together from across Canada and strengthen public account processes, committee processes. I think those that have attended in years past have viewed this as quite a strong learning experience, and I can attest that it's a conference that you go to that you're engaged in. It's a long, full day, but it's something that you take away some practical pieces that can directly be applied to improving our own committee.

So in years previous we've been sending, or the last couple of years we've been sending one member and one member — two members — to the Public Accounts annual conference. This year it's held in Iqaluit, Nunavut from August 19th to the 21st. And I guess I would certainly entertain discussion, and if there's no discussion, I would entertain a motion to send two members of this committee, one from the opposition benches, one from government.

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Chair, just for information for new people, we have sent as many as four in past, but I think two years ago that we changed the policy and recommended the Chair and the Vice-Chair. I don't know if there needs to be a lot of discussion on it. Like you said, it is — I've been on it — it is a good conference to go to. However, I would be in favour of sending two people, and I would recommend the Chair and the Vice-Chair be the ones that we would give first opportunity to go.

The Chair: — Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: — I'm sad to say that I will not be able to attend during those days. So we need to pick somebody else.

The Chair: — One of those fine, able committee members sitting beside you, I'm sure would find the experience valuable.

Mr. Michelson: — So we've got two people that have never been there before, and maybe if we could discuss it. Do we want to send three or is, you know, what is the . . . I guess just I'm looking for discussion on it, more than a recommendation at this point.

The Chair: — Well I think if we supported sending what we've sent, two members, here today and then certainly leave it up to the discretion, I think, of the Deputy Chair in conjunction with committee members to designate who will fulfill his role. Is that worded properly? So I would entertain or welcome a motion on this matter.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees, CCPAC, and Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors, CCOLA, annual conference to be held in Iqaluit and in Nunavut on August 19th to 21st, 2012; and further,

That if the Chair or Deputy Chair cannot attend, they be authorized to designate another committee member to attend in their place.

I so move.

The Chair: — Moved by Deputy Chair Stewart. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — So moved. Is there any other business at this point in time? I would welcome a motion of adjournment. So moved by Mr. Tochor. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — This committee's now adjourned.

[The committee adjourned at 10:19.]