



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Ms. Danielle Chartier, Chair
Saskatoon Riversdale

Mr. Paul Merriman, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Larry Doke
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Mr. Glen Hart
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Mr. Warren Michelson
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Rob Norris
Saskatoon Greystone

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon
Regina Rosemont

[The committee met at 09:29.]

The Chair: — Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Public Accounts this morning. I'd like to just take a moment to introduce our committee members here. We have Mr. Hart, Mr. Doke, Mr. Michelson, Mr. Weekes, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Merriman, and of course Mr. Wotherspoon. And I am Danielle Chartier, the Chair of the committee.

We have a few items to deal with here, four documents to table. I'd like to table the PAC 44/27, which is from eHealth, and it was response to questions raised during our February 12th, 2015 meeting regarding the radiology information system and picture archiving system. It's dated February 26, 2015.

I'd like to table the PAC 45/27 Ministry of Education document. It's response to questions raised at the January 14th, 2015 meeting regarding the amount of interest paid by school divisions related to borrowing for capital projects, and it's dated April 15th, 2015.

We have the PAC 46/27 document from the Ministry of Finance. It's reporting of public losses for the period from January 1st, 2015 to March 31st, 2015, dated April 30th, 2015. And we have the PAC 47/27 document from the Ministry of Health, again the reporting of public losses for the period from January 1st, 2015 to March 31st, 2015, dated May 1st, 2015.

We have two agenda items here. The Provincial Auditor selection process which we've all been involved here. We've had I think a very good process following the resignation of our Provincial Auditor almost two years ago, and we've had an Acting Provincial Auditor. And your steering committee engaged in initiating the process back in, I believe it was February, and moved very quickly on that and I'm pleased to say that . . . I'm pleased to have been part of that process.

We have to thank Kathy Burianyk and the committees branch, Ginette Michaluk with human resources who's been a huge support, and technical and professional advice on the hiring committee which was Shirley Raab and Devan Mescall who are part of our audit committee. We couldn't have undertaken this process without their help. And I just want to give a shout-out to the previous committee who put in, who did the hiring of the previous provincial auditor who laid a really strong foundation for being able to have a clear process in hiring the Provincial Auditor. So we have Mr. Glen Hart and Mr. Wotherspoon, and I understand Ms. Burianyk was part of that as well. And Mr. Michelson, you were part of that as well? Okay. Sorry, my apologies. Anyway it was a very good process and I think it has served us well in the last hiring and certainly in this hiring.

Just wondering if anybody has any comments that they'd like to make in that regard. Seeing none, I'd like to ask a member . . . Oh, Mr. Wotherspoon.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Just to maybe, just to recognize and to thank the technical experts, the external advisers from the audit committee that were involved. I think you mentioned them, but I think that's an important point to point out to the public and to thank these individuals who, you know, joined us and provide that technical capacity to ensure that there is, you know,

integrity of that selection.

The Chair: — Thank you, Mr. Wotherspoon. I know Mr. Merriman and I would agree wholeheartedly that there were things in the interview process and in developing the guide that we as non-members of the profession really needed around that table.

If there's no further questions, I'm wondering if I could have a motion. Mr. Merriman.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Madam Chair. If I could move the following motion:

That pursuant to section 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly Judy Ferguson for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

I so move.

The Chair: — Mr. Merriman has moved:

That pursuant to section 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly Judy Ferguson for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

Is the committee ready for the question . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Is the committee ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Thank you for that.

Moving on to our next item of business, we need to consider the draft first report. Everybody has a copy which outlines the selection process and recommends Ms. Ferguson's appointment to the position. Are there any . . . Have you had a chance to look at the report, or do you have any questions? No? Seeing none, could I have a motion? Mr. Norris.

Mr. Norris: — Great. Thank you, Madam Chair. The motion would read:

That the draft first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

The Chair: — Is the committee ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — Mr. Norris has moved:

That the draft first report of the Standing Committee on

Public Accounts be adopted and presented to the Assembly.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Could I have a motion of adjournment?

Mr. Michelson: — So moved.

The Chair: — Mr. Michelson has moved adjournment. The committee stands adjourned until June 17th, 2015 at 10 a.m. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 09:35.]