

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Tuesday, March 14, 2017

MINUTE NO. 10

8:00 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

1. **Present:** Danielle Chartier in the chair and members David Buckingham,* Jennifer Campeau, Herb Cox, Larry Doke, Hon. Paul Merriman,* Warren Michelson, Nicole Sarauer, and Randy Weekes.

Substituting Members

Hon. Paul Merriman for Glen Hart

David Buckingham for Warren Michelson (8:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.)

Provincial Auditor’s Office

Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor

Tara Clemett, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Kim Lowe, Principal

Provincial Comptroller’s Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Carina Chow, Analyst

2. It was moved by Ms. Sarauer:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts formally requests an update from the Global Transportation Hub and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure on the outstanding information and documentation promised to the committee throughout the questioning of officials on the auditor’s *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes: The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, by Friday March 17, 2017.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was defeated on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 1

Sarauer

Nays — 6

Buckingham, Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Weekes

3. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor’s 2015 report volume 2, chapter 28, Social Services; 2015 report volume 2, chapter 39, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism; 2016 report volume 1, chapter 17, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System; 2016 report volume 1, chapter 33, Social Services — Protection of Children in Care; and 2016 report volume 2, chapter 20, Social Services.

The following Ministry of Social Services officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Greg Miller, Deputy Minister

Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Programs and Finance

Constance Hourie, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs and Corporate Planning

Bob Wihlidal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Programs

Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services

Brenda Kirtzinger, Executive Director, Child and Family Programs

Leanne Forgie, Director, Finance

Marni Williams, Director, Income Assistance Operational Effectiveness

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 137 of the Provincial Auditor's 2015 report volume 2, chapter 28, Social Services:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services follow its established procedures for removing unneeded user access to its computer systems and data promptly.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

5. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 2, chapter 20, Social Services.

6. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 273 of the Provincial Auditor's 2015 report volume 2, chapter 39, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services actively encourage supervisors to take available attendance management training and monitor participation.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 274 of the Provincial Auditor's 2015 report volume 2, chapter 39, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services give all supervisors quarterly reports that identify employees with higher than average sick leave to help them determine the reasons for such absences.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 274 of the Provincial Auditor's 2015 report volume 2, chapter 39, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services, working with the Public Service Commission, develop targeted strategies to manage employee absenteeism based on an analysis of the causes for absenteeism.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 276 of the Provincial Auditor's 2015 report volume 2, chapter 39, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services give senior management periodic reports on the effectiveness of its attendance management strategies, including detailed analysis of the results.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 224 of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 17, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services establish a written plan for updating its Linkin system to protect it from known security vulnerabilities.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 226 of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 17, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Service set out, in a policy, expected timeframes for removing Linkin user access.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 226 of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 17, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services follow its processes to verify the completeness of Linkin case management information entered about care providers of children in care.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 227 of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 17, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services consistently document its review of Linkin reports designed to identify unusual payments.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Social Services has complied with the recommendation.

14. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 33, Social Services — Protection of Children in Care.
15. It was moved by Hon. Mr. Merriman:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.
16. The committee adjourned at 9:11 a.m. until Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Kathy Burianyk
Committee Clerk

Danielle Chartier
Chair