

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Thursday, September 26, 2019

MINUTE NO. 26

8:30 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Muhammad Fiaz,* Lisa Lambert, Don McMorris, Vicki Mowat, Eric Olauson,* and Randy Weekes.

Substituting Members

Muhammad Fiaz for Greg Brkich
Eric Olauson for David Buckingham

Provincial Auditor's Office

Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor
Tara Clemett, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Kelly Deis, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Trevor St. John, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Kim Lowe, Principal
Victor Schwab, Principal
Jason Wandy, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Chris Bayda, Assistant Provincial Comptroller
Jenn Clark, Director, Financial Management

2. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 8, Justice; and 2018 report volume 2, chapter 10, Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections and Policing.

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

Witnesses

Drew Wilby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Engagement
Monica Field, Executive Director, Strategic Systems and Innovation

3. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Justice: Status update, dated September 26, 2019

(PAC 89-28)

4. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 8, Justice; and 2018 report volume 2, chapter 10, Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections and Policing.
5. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 40, Justice — Supporting Provincial Court of Saskatchewan to Manage Court Workloads.

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

Witnesses

Drew Wilby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Engagement

Glennis Bihun, Executive Director, Court Services
Monica Field, Executive Director, Strategic Systems and Innovation

6. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 40, Justice — Supporting Provincial Court of Saskatchewan to Manage Court Workloads.
7. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 9, Justice and Attorney General — Victims' Fund.

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

Witnesses

Drew Wilby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Engagement
Gina Alexander, Executive Director, Strategic Engagement
Dwight Lawrence, Director, Victims Services

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 58 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 9, Justice and Attorney General — Victims' Fund:

We recommend that the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General – Victims' Fund submit claims for its federal cost-sharing agreements within the deadline dates set out in agreements.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Corrections and Policing has complied with the recommendation.

9. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 36, Justice and Attorney General — Enforcing Maintenance Payments.

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

Witnesses

Drew Wilby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Engagement
Lionel McNabb, Director, Maintenance Enforcement

10. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 36, Justice and Attorney General — Enforcing Maintenance Payments.

11. The committee recessed from 9:33 a.m. until 9:59 a.m.

12. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 19, Economy — Nominating Qualified Immigration Applicants; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 30, Immigration and Career Training — Nominating Qualified Immigrant Applications.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Alastair MacFadden, Deputy Minister
Denise Haas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Employment and Career Development

13. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training: Status update, dated September 26, 2019
(PAC 90-28)

14. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 1, chapter 19, Economy — Nominating Qualified Immigration Applicants; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 30, Immigration and Career Training — Nominating Qualified Immigrant Applications.
15. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 2, chapter 4, Economy.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Alastair MacFadden, Deputy Minister
Denise Haas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Employment and Career Development

16. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 28 of the Provincial Auditor's 2016 report volume 2, chapter 4, Economy:

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

The committee noted that the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has complied with the recommendation.

17. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 3, Economy — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes Based Contracts; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 31, Immigration and Career Training — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes-Based Contracts.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Alastair MacFadden, Deputy Minister
Denise Haas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Employment and Career Development

18. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 35 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 3, Economy — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes Based Contracts:

We recommend that the Ministry of the Economy use clearly defined and measurable outcomes to know whether quantifiable improvements are made for program participants (clients).

The committee noted that the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has complied with the recommendation.

19. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 37 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 3, Economy — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes Based Contracts:

We recommend that the Ministry of the Economy reconsider the use of financial incentives in its outcomes-based contracting.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has complied with the recommendation.

20. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 38 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 3, Economy — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes Based Contracts:

We recommend that the Ministry of the Economy align contracted terms of payment with the suppliers' achievement of outcomes for its outcomes-based contracting.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training has complied with the recommendation.

21. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 31, Immigration and Career Training — Working Towards Establishing Outcomes-Based Contracts.
22. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 16, Economy — Co-ordinating English-Language Programs; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 29, Immigration and Career Training — Co-ordinating English-Language Programs.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Alastair MacFadden, Deputy Minister
Denise Haas, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Employment and Career Development

23. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 16, Economy — Co-ordinating English-Language Programs; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 29, Immigration and Career Training — Co-ordinating English-Language Programs.
24. The committee recessed from 11:15 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
25. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 32, Social Services — Placing Minister's Wards in Permanent Homes; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 39, Social Services — Placing Minister's Wards in Permanent Homes.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance

Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

26. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Social Services: Status update, dated September 26, 2019

(PAC 91-28)

27. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 32, Social Services — Placing Minister's Wards in Permanent Homes; and 2019 report volume 1, chapter 39, Social Services — Placing Minister's Wards in Permanent Homes.

28. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 33, Social Services — Supervision of Community-Based Organizations.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

29. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 1, chapter 33, Social Services — Supervision of Community-Based Organizations.

30. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 16, Social Services; and 2018 report volume 2, chapter 17, Social Services.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs

Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

31. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 16, Social Services.
32. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 96 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 17, Social Services:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services implement a process to appropriately identify and disclose contractual obligations in its financial records.

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

33. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 1, chapter 31, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

34. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 1, chapter 31, Social Services — Minimizing Absenteeism.
35. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

36. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 199 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services have independent review and approval of screening decisions within two working days when the Ministry decides not to investigate a child abuse and neglect allegation.

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

37. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 199 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services promptly monitor the appropriateness of changed screening decisions related to reported child abuse and neglect allegations.

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

38. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 201 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services attempt to make face-to-face contact with the child and family involved in a reported child abuse and neglect allegation within required timeframes to assess the child's safety.

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

39. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 202 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services complete family risk assessments for child abuse and neglect investigations within required timeframes.

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

40. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 203 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 26, Social Services — Investigating Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect:

We recommend that the Ministry of Social Services finalize investigations of reported suspected child abuse and neglect within required timeframes, to allow timely supervisor review.

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

41. The committee recessed from 2:42 p.m. until 2:48 p.m.
42. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 46, Social Services — Protecting Children in Care.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

43. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 46, Social Services — Protecting Children in Care.
44. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 47, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System.

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

Witnesses

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Lynn Allan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services

Natalie Huber, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Tracey Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Raynelle Wilson, Assistant Deputy Minister Disability Programs
Raymond Arscott, Executive Director, Finance
Dianne Baird, Executive Director, Housing Network
Tobie Eberhardt, Executive Director, Community Services
Leanne Forgie, Executive Director, Program Support
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Doris Morrow, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Shelley Reddekopp, Executive Director, Program and Service Design
Jeff Redekopp, Executive Director, Income Assistance Service Delivery

45. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 47, Social Services — Protecting Children-in-Care Information in the Linkin System.
46. The committee recessed from 3:03 p.m. until 3:05 p.m.
47. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 27, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Social Housing to Eligible Clients.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Social Services
Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister
Saskatchewan Housing Corporation
Raynelle Wilson, President

48. Saskatchewan Housing Corporation: Status update, dated September 26, 2019 (PAC 92-28)
49. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 212 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 27, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Social Housing to Eligible Clients:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation have its housing authorities follow its policies to calculate point scores prior to placing applicants in suitable social housing.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has complied with the recommendation.

50. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 212 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 27, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Social Housing to Eligible Clients:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation maintain accurate and complete point score data for social housing in its provincial database.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has complied with the recommendation.

51. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 213 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 27, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Social Housing to Eligible Clients:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation set timelines to assess applications for social housing and notify applicants of decisions regarding program eligibility.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has complied with the recommendation.

52. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 213 of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 27, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Social Housing to Eligible Clients:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation require housing authorities to retain documentation to verify applicants are offered social housing units based on their point score priority.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has complied with the recommendation.

53. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 43, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Maintaining Housing Units.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Social Services

Tammy Kirkland, Deputy Minister

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation

Raynelle Wilson, President

54. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2017 report volume 2, chapter 43, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Maintaining Housing Units.

55. The committee recessed from 3:34 p.m. until 3:38 p.m.

56. The committee considered its third report.

57. It was moved by Ms. Lambert:

That the draft Third Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be adopted; and further,

That the final report be approved by the Steering Committee and filed with the Clerk pursuant to Rule 136(6).

The question being put, it was agreed to.

58. It was moved by Ms. Lambert:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

59. The committee adjourned at 3:40 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Rob Park
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Chair