

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**Monday, February 8, 2021**

**MINUTE NO. 3**  
**1:00 p.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)**

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Marv Friesen, Todd Goudy, Delbert Kirsch, Hugh Nerlien, Dana Skoropad, Aleana Young, and Colleen Young.

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor  
Kelly Deis, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Trevor St. John, Deputy Provincial Auditor

**Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller  
Chris Bayda, Assistant Provincial Comptroller

2. The following documents were tabled:

Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan: Third quarter financial forecast for the nine months ending December 31, 2020

(PAC 14-29)

Ministry of Health: Report of public losses, October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

(PAC 15-29)

Ministry of Finance: Report of public losses, October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

(PAC 16-29)

Ministry of Finance: Government response to fourth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, dated January 28, 2021

(PAC 17-29)

3. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 1, chapter 22, Highways and Infrastructure — Addressing Road Safety Concerns on Existing Highways; and 2020 report volume 1, chapter 18, Highways and Infrastructure — Road Safety Concerns on Existing Highways.

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

Witnesses

Fred Antunes, Deputy Minister  
Wayne Gienow, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Planning and Regulation  
Andrew Landers, Chief, Saskatchewan Highway Patrol

4. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 1, chapter 22, Highways and Infrastructure — Addressing Road Safety Concerns on Existing Highways.

5. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 18, Highways and Infrastructure — Road Safety Concerns on Existing Highways.
6. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 8, Highways and Infrastructure; 2020 report volume 1, chapter 2, Highways and Infrastructure; 2020 report volume 2, chapter 7, Highways and Infrastructure.

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

Witnesses

Fred Antunes, Deputy Minister

Wayne Gienow, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Planning and Regulation

Andrew Landers, Chief, Saskatchewan Highway Patrol

7. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 8, Highways and Infrastructure.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 30 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 2, Highways and Infrastructure:

We recommend the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure increase its monitoring of compliance with established transaction limits for purchases made using purchase cards.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 31 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 2, Highways and Infrastructure:

We recommend the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure implement policies to better oversee purchases of regulated firearms and ammunition to ensure they support its business needs.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 32 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 2, Highways and Infrastructure:

We recommend the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure implement better processes to track regulated highway patrol equipment.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

11. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 7, Highways and Infrastructure.
12. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 28, Highways and Infrastructure — Enforcing Vehicle Weight and Dimension Requirements.

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

Witnesses

Fred Antunes, Deputy Minister  
Wayne Gienow, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Planning and Regulation  
Andrew Landers, Chief, Saskatchewan Highway Patrol

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 292 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 28, Highways and Infrastructure — Enforcing Vehicle Weight and Dimension Requirements:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure consistently document its response to calls received through its inquiry line and actions taken to address each call.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

14. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 35, Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass.

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

Witnesses

Fred Antunes, Deputy Minister  
Wayne Gienow, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Planning and Regulation  
Andrew Landers, Chief, Saskatchewan Highway Patrol

15. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 35, Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass.
16. The committee recessed from 2:03 p.m. until 2:08 p.m.
17. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 33, Global Transportation Hub Authority—Acquiring Land from the Private Sector.

The following Global Transportation Hub Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Matthew Schroeder, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Dyane Lewis, Board Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

18. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 33, Global Transportation Hub Authority—Acquiring Land from the Private Sector.
19. The committee recessed from 2:18 p.m. until 2:31 p.m.

20. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 13, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority; 2020 report volume 2, chapter 13, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority; 2018 report volume 2, chapter 15, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.; 2018 report volume 2, chapter 16, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Susan Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Charlene Callander, Vice-President, Corporate Services and Gaming  
Greg Gettle, Vice-President, Liquor Wholesale and Distribution  
Fiona Cribb, Vice-President, Regulatory Services  
Chet Culic, Director, Casino Operations

21. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 94 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 13, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority establish a written agreement with Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority indicating when it will receive the audit report on controls for the SIGA Casino Management System.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 94 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 13, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Indian and Gaming Authority monitor activities of its service provider that manages its Casino Management System.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

23. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 13, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

24. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 15, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.

25. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 90 of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 16, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority:

We recommend that Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority management carry out detailed reviews of quarterly and year-end financial information to supporting documents (e.g., reconciliations, journal entries, financial reports).

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority has complied with the recommendation.

26. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 42, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Managing Projects with Significant IT Components; 2020 report volume 2, chapter 39, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Managing Projects with Significant IT Components.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Susan Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Charlene Callander, Vice-President, Corporate Services and Gaming  
Greg Gettle, Vice-President, Liquor Wholesale and Distribution  
Fiona Cribb, Vice-President, Regulatory Services  
Chet Culic, Director, Casino Operations

27. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 42, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Managing Projects with Significant IT Components.
28. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 39, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Managing Projects with Significant IT Components.
29. The committee recessed from 3:02 p.m. until 3:05 p.m.
30. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Regulating Commercial Permittees' On-Table Sale of Liquor.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Susan Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Charlene Callander, Vice-President, Corporate Services and Gaming  
Greg Gettle, Vice-President, Liquor Wholesale and Distribution  
Fiona Cribb, Vice-President, Regulatory Services  
Chet Culic, Director, Casino Operations

31. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Regulating Commercial Permittees' On-Table Sale of Liquor.
32. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 42, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Assurance on Safety of Liquor Products.

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Susan Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer

Charlene Callander, Vice-President, Corporate Services and Gaming  
Greg Gettle, Vice-President, Liquor Wholesale and Distribution  
Fiona Cribb, Vice-President, Regulatory Services  
Chet Culic, Director, Casino Operations

33. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 42, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority — Assurance on Safety of Liquor Products.
34. The committee recessed from 3:15 p.m. until 3:25 p.m.
35. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 27, Agriculture — Mitigating Risk of Livestock Diseases.

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

Witnesses

Rick Burton, Deputy Minister  
Michele Arscott, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Grant Zalinko, Executive Director, Livestock  
Faye Dokken, Director, Production Technology

36. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 27, Agriculture — Mitigating Risk of Livestock Diseases.
37. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 28, Agriculture — Regulating Livestock Waste.

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

Witnesses

Rick Burton, Deputy Minister  
Michele Arscott, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Grant Zalinko, Executive Director, Livestock  
Faye Dokken, Director, Production Technology

38. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 28, Agriculture — Regulating Livestock Waste.
39. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures.

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

Witnesses

Rick Burton, Deputy Minister  
Michele Arscott, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Grant Zalinko, Executive Director, Livestock  
Faye Dokken, Director, Production Technology

40. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 120 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures:

We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture revisit how it will conduct surveillance to determine populations of Richardson's ground squirrel.

41. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 121 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures:

We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture proactively provide producers with written guidance about detecting and reporting the presence of late blight and bacterial ring rot.

42. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 122 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures:

We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture make sure laboratory results confirming clubroot presence are communicated to producers promptly.

43. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 123 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures:

We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture, working with its key stakeholders, provide producers with written guidance on developing response plans for grasshoppers, late blight, bacterial ring rot, and brown or Norway rat.

44. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 125 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 19, Agriculture — Mitigating the Impact of Regulated Pests in Crops and Pastures:

We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture periodically report to senior management on the sufficiency of mitigation of regulated pests including Richardson's ground squirrel, late blight, bacterial ring rot, and brown or Norway rat.

45. The committee recessed from 4:08 p.m. until 4:11 p.m.

46. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation — Managing Succession of Human Resources.

The following Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Jeff Morrow, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer  
Kirk Zawislak, Executive Director, Human Resources

47. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 166 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation — Managing Succession of Human Resources.

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation set timeframes in which to complete specific key succession management planning processes.

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

48. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 167 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation — Managing Succession of Human Resources:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation establish a method to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of its succession management processes.

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

49. The following documents were tabled:

Ministry of Highways: Status update, dated February 8, 2021

(PAC 18-29)

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority: Status update, dated February 8, 2021

(PAC 19-29)

Ministry of Agriculture: Status update, dated February 8, 2021

(PAC 20-29)

50. It was moved by Ms. Young (Lloydminster):

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

51. The committee adjourned at 4:20 p.m. until Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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Rob Park  
Committee Clerk

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Trent Wotherspoon  
Chair