



February 22, 2016

Ms. Danielle Chartier, Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Room 7 Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0B3



Dear Ms. Chartier:

I am writing in response to the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Twenty-seventh Legislature (Report) that was tabled on November 4, 2015. During the period December 12, 2011 to September 17, 2015, I understand the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Committee) considered 621 recommendations of the Provincial Auditor.

The Government is pleased with the Committee's assessment that 304 of the 621 recommendations have either been complied with or are no longer relevant. The Government notes the Committee concurred with substantially all of the remaining Provincial Auditor recommendations and appreciates that for most of these, the Committee observed there is progress towards compliance. The Committee amended three of the recommendations made by the Provincial Auditor.

In response to these three specific recommendations made by the Committee I offer the following:

Recommendation 1:
PAC recommends the Ministry of Economy provide the necessary information to assist applicants to make informed decisions regarding their application for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP).

(The Provincial Auditor recommended that the Ministry of the Economy establish a process to estimate and communicate future processing times for the SINP.) Reference: 2013 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1) – Chapter 12: Nominating Qualified Immigration Applicants

Government Response:

The Government concurs with the amended recommendation. It clarifies that sufficient information be provided to applicants to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their SINP application without the need for projecting future processing times given the complexity of the applications and uncertainty with the number of future applications.

Recommendation 2:

PAC recommends that, recognizing the difference of professional interpretation, the Minister of Finance have his officials continue to examine this issue and discuss it with the Provincial Auditor.

(The Provincial Auditor recommended that the Ministry of Health follow Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector to record, in its financial records, funding provided to regional health authorities (RHAs) for the repayment of principal and interest due on loans and the related liabilities.) Reference: 2013 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2) – Chapter 11: Health

Government Response:

The Auditor reports that the Government has changed its reporting focus to the Summary Financial Statements (SFS) and no longer requires the preparation and audit of the General Revenue Fund (GRF) financial statements. As the GRF and RHAs are both part of the SFS, the accounting for the funding from the GRF to the RHAs does not affect the accuracy of the SFS. As a result, the Auditor concludes in the 2015 Report (Volume 2) that the recommendation is no longer relevant. The Government agrees with this assessment.

Recommendation 3:

PAC recommends that, recognizing the difference of professional interpretations, the Minister of Finance have his officials continue to examine this issue and discuss it further with the Provincial Auditor.

(The Provincial Auditor recommended that the Government use Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector to prepare the General Revenue Fund's financial Statements.) Reference: 2013 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2) - Chapter 1: Public Accounts – 2012 Auditor's Reports

Government Response:

As noted, the Government has changed its reporting focus to the SFS and GRF statements are no longer required to be prepared and audited.

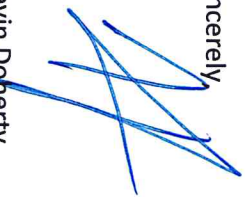
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The Government would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Committee and express its appreciation of the service and assistance provided by the Office of the Clerk, the Provincial Auditor and her staff, and officials from the Provincial Comptroller's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kevin Doherty', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

cc: Larry Doke, Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts