

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Monday, February 13, 2017

MINUTE NO. 8
1:02 p.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

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

Substituting Members

Gene Makowsky for Warren Michelson
Hon. Paul Merriman for Glen Hart

Other Members

Cathy Sproule

Provincial Auditor's Office

Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor
Jason Wandy, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan: Third quarter financial forecast for the nine months ending December 31, 2016

(PAC 20-28)

Ministry of Finance: Report of public losses, October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

(PAC 21-28)

Ministry of Health: Report of public losses, October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

(PAC 22-28)

3. It was moved by Ms. Sarauer:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts rescind the motion put forward on January 12 stating:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts meet with officials of the Global Transportation Hub Authority and the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure on February 13, 2017 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. to conclude considerations of the recommendations in the *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes*.

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

Yea — 1

Sarauer

Nays — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

4. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Nithi Govindasamy, Deputy Minister

Wayne Gienow, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division

Rachel Ratch, Director, Corporate Support

Global Transportation Hub

Bryan Richards, Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Schroeder, Vice-President of Finance

Kelly Brossart, Director, Communications and Marketing

5. The following document was tabled:

Global Transportation Hub: Correspondence from Blair Wagar to Matt Schroeder re: land purchase, dated December 6, 2013

(PAC 23-28)

6. It was moved by Ms. Sarauer:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts requests all the documentation, without redactions, referenced by the CEO of the Global Transportation Hub and the Deputy Minister of Highways today as they have endeavoured to check the record, or get back to the committee with information.

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

Yea — 1

Sarauer

Nays — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

7. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 1 made at page 20 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part B, Global Transportation Hub Authority — Acquiring Land from the Private Sector:

We recommend that the Global Transportation Hub Authority require, for its Board's review and approval, the preparation of business cases for major land acquisitions or significant new initiatives;

And that the committee note that the Global Transportation Hub Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

8. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 2 made at page 28 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part B, Global Transportation Hub Authority — Acquiring Land from the Private Sector:

We recommend that the Global Transportation Hub Authority require and keep documentation of review of land appraisal reports it uses when making offers to purchase land;

And that the committee note that the Global Transportation Hub Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

9. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 1 made at page 46 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure explore alternate approaches to optimize the timing of land acquisitions for major public improvement projects;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

10. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 2 made at page 50 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure require staff responsible for acquiring land for public improvement projects to periodically document conflict of interest;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

11. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 3 made at page 53 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure require staff to clearly document the results of review of appraisal reports used to acquire land for public improvement projects;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

12. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 4 made at page 53 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure clarify its policy for paying permanent damages for partial takings of agricultural land to landowners for public improvement projects;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

13. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 5 made at page 53 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure follow written approved policies in effect related to determining compensation associated with land acquisitions for public improvement projects and keep related supporting documents.

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation;

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

14. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 6 made at page 54 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure provide for an internal review of compensation performed by a second person other than the preparer associated with land acquisitions for public improvement projects prior to making offers to landowners;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yea — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

15. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 7 made at page 58 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure follow its delegated signing authority when acquiring land for public improvement projects;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yea — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

16. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the committee concur with recommendation 8 made at page 59 of the Provincial Auditor's report, *Special Report: Land Acquisition Processes, The Global Transportation Hub Authority and Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure*, part C, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — Acquiring Land for the Regina Bypass:

We recommend that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure publish information to help landowners understand their property rights and how it determines due compensation for land for public improvement projects;

And that the committee note that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

The question being put, it was agreed to on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 6

Campeau, Cox, Doke, Merriman, Makowsky, Weekes

Nays — 1

Sarauer

17. It was moved by Mr. Weekes:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

18. The committee adjourned at 4:06 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Kathy Burianyk
Committee Clerk

Danielle Chartier
Chair