

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS



FIRST REPORT

May 14, 2015

4th SESSION of the 27th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Standing Committee on Public Accounts



Room 7 Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3
Tel (306) 787-9930
Fax (306) 798-9650
committees@legassembly.sk.ca

May 14, 2015

To the Honourable Members
of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Saskatchewan

HONOURABLE MEMBERS:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts is pleased to present its First Report to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The First Report summarizes the activity undertaken for the Provincial Auditor selection process, makes a formal recommendation for appointment and includes a biography of the recommended candidate.

It has been an honour and pleasure for your Committee to work together on behalf of the Legislature of Saskatchewan and the people of this province.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Danielle Chartier, MLA
Saskatoon Riversdale
Chair

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

Ms. Danielle Chartier, Chair
Saskatoon Riversdale

Mr. Paul Merriman, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Sutherland

Mr. Larry Doke
Cut Knife-Turtleford

Mr. Glen Hart
Last Mountain-Touchwood

Mr. Warren Michelson
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Rob Norris
Saskatoon Greystone

Mr. Randy Weekes
Biggar

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon
Regina Rosemont

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pursuant to Section 21(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, your Committee sought the assistance of two recognized subject matter experts from the Audit Committee to assist in the Provincial Auditor selection process. Your Committee wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to Ms. Shirley Raab, Chair of the Audit Committee and Dr. Devan Mescall, Member of the Audit Committee. We would also like to thank Kathy Burianyk, Senior Committee Clerk and Ginette Michaluk, Director, Human Resources, Legislative Assembly Service for their administrative and human resource assistance.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ms. Bonnie Lysyk resigned as Provincial Auditor as of September 1, 2013. Ms. Judy Ferguson has been the Acting Provincial Auditor since September 3, 2013.

Your Committee adopted the *First Report of the Steering Committee Provincial Auditor Selection Process* on September 23, 2014. This report outlined the recommended process regarding the selection process for the position of Provincial Auditor.

Under Section 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts is required to unanimously recommend an individual to the Legislative Assembly, which then makes the appointment by order.

III. THE SELECTION PROCESS

Your Committee's Steering Committee, comprised of Ms. Danielle Chartier, Chair and Mr. Paul Merriman, Deputy Chair, discussed the process for selecting a new Provincial Auditor at a meeting on August 5, 2014. It was agreed that a similar selection process should be adopted by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts as was used to recommend the last Provincial Auditor in March 2011. Your Committee tabled and adopted the *First Report of the Steering Committee Provincial Auditor Selection Process* at a meeting on September 23, 2014. Your Committee agreed to nine recommendations, which guided the Provincial Auditor selection process.

As outlined by the approved recommendations by your Committee, a Screening Panel was formed. The Steering Committee agreed to the two subject matter experts, who were members of the Audit Committee, Shirley Raab and Devan Mescall. As well, two Legislative Assembly Service staff members, Ginette Michaluk and Kathy Burianyk, provided human resource and administrative support.

Your Steering Committee approved documents and the position was advertised for a three week period beginning March 7, 2015. The deadline for accepting applications was March 29, 2015.

The position was advertised in the following newspapers and websites:

- *The Globe and Mail* newspaper – Careers Section (March 14, 16 and 18)
- *The National Post* newspaper – Careers Section (March 7 and 14)
- *The Leader Post* and *Star Phoenix* newspapers (March 7 and 21)
- Saskatchewan Public Service Commission website
- Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Service website
- Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor website
- MBAjobs website
- Workopolis
- CPAsource website
- Chartered Professional Accountants Saskatchewan website

Interested candidates were invited to submit their cover letters and resumes to an email address. The management of the resumes and fielding of inquiries from candidates were primarily administrative in nature and managed by the Committee Clerk.

The Screening Panel met on April 1, 2015 to assess all applications that were received. Once the assessment process was completed, the Screening Panel shortlisted three applicants to proceed in the selection process.

One of the short listed candidates was interviewed on April 22, 2015 and two candidates were interviewed on April 23, 2015. The Screening Panel conducted the interviews while the Steering Committee participated as observers.

The Screening Panel and Steering Committee agreed to a list of individuals to be contacted for reference checks. The reference checks were completed on April 27, 2015, April 29, 2015 and May 1, 2015.

After considering the interview and reference check assessment documents for each candidate, the Screening Panel completed its assessment and recommended that your Standing Committee on Public Accounts interview the candidates who were deemed meritorious.

The second interviews took place on May 4, 2015. The Screening Panel was in attendance to ensure the continuity of the overall process.

After careful deliberation, your Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed on one of the candidates to be recommended to the Legislative Assembly for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

After carefully reviewing the qualifications of each candidate and the results of the interviews, your Committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to s. 3.1 of The Provincial Auditor Act, your Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly the name of Ms. Judy Ferguson for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

A biography of Ms. Ferguson appears in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

Ms. Ferguson, FCPA, FCA has been the Acting Provincial Auditor since September 1, 2013, and was previously the Assistant Provincial Auditor. She has extensive expertise in both financial and performance auditing. She is a Chartered Professional Accountant in good standing. In 2004, she was awarded the Fellowship of Chartered Accountancy of Saskatchewan in recognition of her contributions to the professional accounting profession. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Saskatchewan.

She is an active member of the Canadian Professional Accounting profession having served on the Canadian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board from 2007 to 2013, currently serving on the discipline committee of Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Saskatchewan, and previously serving on a number of national and provincial committees and task forces.

She is an active member of the legislative audit community serving as a representative on various Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) committees.