

# **STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN CORPORATIONS**



## **FOURTH REPORT**

**March 25, 2003**

**4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 24<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON CROWN CORPORATIONS

## FOURTH REPORT

Mr. Van Mulligen, Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, presents the Committee's Fourth Report of the Twenty-fourth Legislature.

The Standing Committee on Crown Corporations is empowered by this Assembly to both review the Annual Reports and financial statements of the various Crown Corporations and to review those chapters contained in the reports of the Provincial Auditor dealing with matters relating to CIC Crown Corporations. This report reflects the work undertaken by your Committee since December 2002.

### 1) Crown Corporations Reviewed by the Committee:

Your Committee indicated in its Third Report that it wished to examine the outstanding annual reports of both the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority. Your Committee is pleased to report these reviews have been completed.

Your Committee wishes to note it has completed all of the reviews of annual reports it wishes to undertake and awaits the tabling of the 2002 Annual Reports later this spring.

### 2) Review of Provincial Auditor's Reports:

The following items of business remain outstanding:

With respect to the 2001 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor, Chapter 11, Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, Recommendations 1, 2 & 3 are still outstanding:

Your Committee considered Recommendation 1, which read "*We recommend that the Government should clarify the law to require CIC and its Crown corporations to obtain Order in Council approval before purchasing or selling real property through a subsidiary*". After discussion, the Committee agreed, on motion, that "CIC review its procedures and when it next comes before the Committee, report on the pros and cons of changing the legislation in the context of a commercial environment." Further consideration of the motion continues to be deferred as the Committee has yet to receive a response to its request.

Recommendations 2 and 3 addressed the issue of public disclosure of those persons receiving money from government agencies.

With respect to Recommendation 2, which stated "*We recommend that CIC and its subsidiaries should:*

- *publish a list of persons (e.g., employees, suppliers) who have received money from them and the amounts the persons received, following the Assembly's current disclosure requirements; or*
- *seek direction from the Crown Corporations Committee on alternate disclosure requirements that will achieve legislators' objectives for requiring this information.*"

Your Committee stated it was satisfied with the information currently provided by CIC to the Committee. The Acting Provincial Auditor did, however, agree to undertake further discussions with CIC regarding the issue of disclosure requirements.

Your Committee deferred its consideration of Recommendation 3, which read “*We recommend that the Crown Corporations Committee should follow the process set out in Exhibit 2 for deciding what information government agencies should disclose and to whom.*” Your Committee requested that both the Crown Investments Corporation and the Office of the Provincial Auditor provide a report to your Committee addressing the implications of the proposed process. Reports from these two bodies were received by your Committee in February 2003, at which time it was agreed they be forwarded to the Information and Privacy Commissioner for his review and comment. Your Committee is awaiting his response.

### **3) Concluding remarks:**

Your Committee would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to this Legislature and this province. Until the creation of your Committee almost 60 years ago, members had little opportunity to scrutinize the activities of Crown corporations. This was not only the case here, but also in many other jurisdictions. In fact, your Standing Committee on Crown Corporations was the first such committee in the Commonwealth. Over the years, your Committee has spent hundreds of hours reviewing the activities of the various Crown Corporations and has had the opportunity to call numerous Ministers and Crown Officials before it. Your Committee also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Provincial Auditor, and the various independent auditors.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Van Mulligen, Chair,  
Standing Committee on Crown Corporations