



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
2003**

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Regina Northeast, Vice-Chair

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Weyburn-Big Muddy

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Warren McCall
Regina Elphinstone

Lyle Stewart
Thunder Creek

Milton Wakefield
Lloydminster

The committee met at 09:30.

The Chair: — Good morning, everybody. We'll call the meeting to order and indicate for the record that on the government side, sitting in for Ms. Atkinson is Mr. Yates; and on the opposition side, for Mr. Wakefield is Mr. Dearborn, for Mr. Gantfoer is Ms. Draude, and for Ms. Bakken is Mr. Weekes. And welcome to all of the regular board members.

As indicated by the copies that we had circulated, the discussion today centres around the draft report, the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. I'd ask Mr. Wendel, I guess, for the record, to indicate your officials from your office, please, if you would introduce them.

Mr. Wendel: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me I have Brian Atkinson and Rodd Jersak.

The Chair: — Good morning, gentlemen. And Mr. Paton, welcome.

Mr. Paton: — Good morning, Mr. Chair. I've got Chris Bayda from the Department of Finance with me this morning.

The Chair: — Great. As indicated we had to, because of the absence of a number of our regular members we decided to forgo the picture taking, and those sit-in people, you're not going to be in the picture . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That would work. So we'll be postponing that to sometimes when we reconvene for actual work.

So today's item on the agenda is only the consideration of the draft report. Each of you has had that report in your hands for a number of days. I want to thank Meta for having that report available. It's well into a week.

We've had the auditor's office and I believe, Mr. Paton, your office as well has had the opportunity to review it.

And the reason for this morning's meeting is to discuss any items that you may have noticed or recognized that are not accurate, and we want to correct those. There have been some spelling errors and things like that that have been brought to the attention of the Clerk's office.

But I open the floor now to continued discussion on any of the pages of the report.

I'd ask Margaret to make a comment on pages 10 and 11, an item that was brought to our attention I believe by the auditor's office.

Ms. Woods: — Yes, and it's just for your information. On page 10, recommendation 6A-10, the last two phrases:

. . . your committee notes that the Provincial Auditor and the Liquor and Gaming Authority have received opposing legal opinions. Your committee agreed to postpone a decision on this recommendation until these have been clarified.

What the auditor's office is proposing is to take those two

sentences and include them under the recommendation on page 11, 6B-1, and replacing the two final sentences in recommendation 6B-1 which start with "your committee notes" and then the reference to the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Take those two sentences out and replace them with the one from the previous page.

Mr. Paton: — Just for the record, our office noted the exact same comment that the auditor has.

The Chair: — Excellent, thank you. Okay, so we'll make that change.

Are there any other items that either the auditor's office wants to make comment on, or the comptroller's office, or members?

Seeing no further comments or questions, the committee requires a resolution to adopt the report and to present it to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Chair, I'll move that.

The Chair: — Mr. Harper moves, seconded by Mr. Dearborn. Any discussion on that resolution? All those in favour? Carried.

As a housekeeping comment we will attempt to propose this to the House, to the Legislative Assembly, tomorrow to allow the work to be done over the course of today so that it would be presented to the Legislative Assembly tomorrow afternoon.

Any problem with that? Seeing none, the meeting stands adjourned. Thank you very much.

The committee adjourned at 09:40.

