



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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Mr. Delbert Kirsch
Batoche

Mr. Hugh Nerlien
Kelvington-Wadena

Mr. Dana Skoropad
Arm River

Ms. Aleana Young
Regina University

[The committee met at 11:15.]

The Chair: — Well thanks, everyone. We'll convene the Standing Committee on Public Accounts here this morning. Thanks to committee members for coming together. I'll introduce members: Deputy Chair Young, Lloydminster; Mr. Nerlien; Mr. Friesen; Mr. Kirsch; Mr. Skoropad; Mr. Goudy; and Ms. Mowat, who's substituting for Ms. Young, Regina University.

I'll table the following documents at this point: PAC 25-29, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: Responses to questions asked at February 8th, 2021 meeting; PAC 26-29, Ministry of Education: Report of public losses, December 1st, 2020 to February 28th, 2021; PAC 27-29, Ministry of Advanced Education: Report of losses, January 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2021; PAC 28-29, Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan: Fourth quarter financial forecast for the year ending March 31st, 2021; PAC 29-29, Ministry of Finance: Report of losses, January 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2021; PAC 30-29, Ministry of Health: Report of losses, January 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2021.

We're here for a few items here this morning, actually, important business. We're here to discuss the nominees for the audit committee that supports this Public Accounts Committee but also are very important in supporting . . . Two of those members will be very important in supporting the selection process of the permanent auditor.

I would ask a member to move a motion to go in camera to have this discussion.

Ms. C. Young: — I'll so move that we go in camera at this point in time.

The Chair: — Moved by Deputy Chair Young. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. All right. We're done. The committee will go in camera.

[The committee continued in camera from 11:17 until 11:47.]

The Chair: — All right. Welcome back out of in-camera discussion. We've made some decisions with respect to the audit committee that's required by legislation. We thank the organizations for submitting the respective recommendations. And I know we have a motion that I'll entertain from Deputy Chair Young.

Ms. C. Young: — I'll so move:

That the Chair consult with the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies prior to forwarding the audit committee member recommendations to the Speaker.

The Chair: — So the motion's moved. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And that's been agreed to *nemine*

contradicente.

We will continue with the consideration of the Provincial Auditor selection process. On this front, I would like to thank our Clerk, Rob Park, for his work on this front.

But importantly I think we'd like to . . . or I know we'd like to recognize our Provincial Auditor for her exceptional service to our province through the Office of the Provincial Auditor. And I would welcome a motion on this front. Deputy Chair Young.

Ms. C. Young: — Right, I'd be happy to make that motion:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts records its respectful appreciation for the 40 years of distinguished and dedicated service given by Judy Ferguson to the province of Saskatchewan in her career with the Office of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan, including nearly two years' service as interim auditor and six years' service as Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan.

The Chair: — Thank you for that motion. All agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And that's agreed to *nemine contradicente*. And thank you so much to Judy Ferguson for her incredible service. It's a wonderful thing to have leaders like that act as an advisor to this table as well, and her many years of service have left her province in a better place.

We'll move along to the consideration of the committee's first report. We've made some decisions regarding the steering committee's first report, and I recognize Deputy Chair Young.

Ms. C. Young: — I would like to move at this point in time:

That the first report of the steering committee be adopted; and

That the steering committee be authorized to make decisions on process and procedure relating to the selection of a Provincial Auditor; and further

That if a non-committee member is unable to participate in the process, the steering committee shall be authorized to select another Legislative Assembly Service employee or subject matter specialist.

The Chair: — Thank you for the motion. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried, and that's carried again *nemine contradicente*.

With the selection process being established, we will have sufficient time to complete this competition before Ms. Ferguson retires. It's the committee's responsibility to . . . We will not have time to complete that before Ms. Ferguson retires, so we need an interim auditor. It's the committee's responsibility to appoint an acting auditor pursuant to clause 5 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

We've had a discussion, so I would ask a member to move a motion to appoint an interim auditor. I recognize Deputy Chair Young.

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I recommend:

That Tara Clemett be appointed as the Acting Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan, effective July 1, 2021.

The Chair: — Thank you for the motion. All agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. And that's carried again *nemine contradicente*.

I'd like to welcome briefly Ms. Tara Clemett to her new role and to the committee as an advisor. And we look forward to working with her, and we thank her for her service and leadership.

That, I guess, covers the business of today. So I would ask for a motion to adjourn this committee. All in favour? Or I guess I should wait for the motion. Mr. Nerlien so moved. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. This committee stands adjourned to the call of the Chair.

[The committee adjourned at 11:52.]