

Status Update

September 6, 2022

Chapter 15, Providing Safe Drinking Water in Northern Settlements, 2021 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations take prompt action to address problems in providing safe drinking water to northern settlements.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	191	Partially Implemented	<p><u>Uranium City:</u> The Ministry has initiated a feasibility study to explore alternative methods for providing residents with potable water.</p>	<p><u>Uranium City:</u> The Ministry is installing water meters to measure the volume of treated water required for the community.</p> <p>Concurrently a consultant will explore the feasibility of alternative options based on engineering estimates.</p> <p>These actions will inform the decisions for the future system.</p>	December 2023

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			<p><u>Brabant Lake:</u> In 2021, the Ministry awarded contracts to upgrade the water treatment facility and control system.</p> <p><u>Stanley Mission:</u> The Ministry is contributing to the upgrade of the water system, and trihalomethane levels is now within acceptable limits.</p>	<p><u>Brabant Lake:</u> Construction is underway. A Precautionary Drinking Water Advisory in Brabant Lake remains until the upgrade is complete.</p>	<p>December 2022</p> <p>Completed February 2022</p>

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<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations test drinking water samples and document the results as required by its water system permits issued by the Water Security Agency (previously issued by the Ministry of Environment).</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	<p>193</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>The Ministry continues to explore options to increase operator oversight to improve testing outcomes.</p> <p>The Ministry has entered into regional operator agreements with third parties to oversee facility operations.</p>	<p>Where the Ministry relies on water systems they do not control, officials will explore options to have water quality tests performed by municipal employees.</p> <p>The Ministry is improving the packaging of water quality tests to reduce the risk of damaged tests.</p> <p>The Ministry is improving requirements for water treatment plant operators to follow consistent procedures when testing drinking water samples and to document the results.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations consistently carry out all required maintenance for its water systems.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	<p>195</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>The Ministry has entered into regional operator agreements with third parties to oversee facility operations.</p> <p>The Ministry has established a single internal point of contact to ensure water and sewer system-related issues are handled consistently and effectively.</p> <p>Outstanding maintenance issues at Stanley Mission have been rectified with new infrastructure.</p>	<p>The Ministry is improving requirements for water treatment plant operators to carry out all required maintenance for its water systems consistently.</p> <p>The Ministry is exploring resourcing opportunities that will provide consistency and technical depth to the day-to-day oversight of system operations.</p> <p>The Ministry is reviewing the terms of the water and sewer Circuit Rider Program to ensure the deliverables align with the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations document its monthly supervision of maintenance carried out on its water systems to evidence that all required maintenance is occurring.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	<p>195</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>The Ministry has internally established a single point of contact to ensure water and sewer system-related issues are handled consistently and effectively.</p> <p>Ministry staff are reviewing maintenance logs as they are received.</p>		

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Chapter 16, Recommending Infrastructure Projects for Funding, 2021 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations make publicly available the factors it uses to determine which eligible projects to recommend for federal-provincial infrastructure funding. Status – Implemented	203	Implemented	Information on how applicants are assessed is published on the Ministry's website.		
Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations require an independent review of project rating scores used to select projects to recommend for federal-provincial infrastructure funding. Status – Implemented	203	Implemented	Independent reviews of rating scores are completed.		

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations consistently document rationale for key decisions made when recommending infrastructure projects for federal-provincial infrastructure funding.</p> <p>Status – Implemented</p>	<p>204</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>Rating forms have been modified to the included additional rationale for scoring. This will ensure scoring is consistently documented.</p>		
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations determine a written strategy for notifying, within a reasonable timeframe, applicants who are unsuccessful in obtaining funding under federal-provincial infrastructure programs.</p> <p>Status – Intent of Recommendation Implemented</p>	<p>205</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>All unsuccessful applicants are notified that their application is closed and that a new application will be required for future programs.</p>		<p>Completed</p>

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Chapter 25, Proposing education Property Tax Mill Rates, 2021 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations document its rationale for decisions made on which education property tax mill rates to propose. Status –Implemented	193	Implemented	The Ministry's Education Property Tax Mill Rate manual was updated to direct staff to document rational for options chosen in the Education Property Tax Mill Rates Options Paper.		

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations include the impact of potential changes in key assumptions (property growth rates) and more information on economic and social impacts when proposing education property tax mill rate options to decision-makers.</p> <p>Status –Implemented</p>	193	Implemented	The Education Property Tax Mill Rate Estimates Process Manual was evaluated and updated to include information on economic and social impacts when proposing education property tax mill rate options to decision-makers.		

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September 6, 2022

Chapter 1, Northern Municipal Trust Account, 2020 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 1

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations require management to carry out a detailed review of quarterly and year-end financial information (e.g., financial reports, journal entries, reconciliations) prepared by the staff responsible for recording Northern Municipal Trust Account financial information.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	22	Partially Implemented	The Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) hired a professional accountant as the Director of Finance. The director completes a thorough analysis and review of accounting activities, improving reporting accuracy.	The NMTA is reviewing its processes and implementing improvements to ensure management review is completed on time and documented.	December 2022

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations adequately segregate duties of employees responsible for key accounting functions of the Northern Municipal Trust Account.</p> <p>Status – Not Implemented</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>The NMTA finalized a Segregation of Duties (SOD) Matrix in 2021, which will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>The NMTA has hired sufficient staff to ensure that segregations are met as outlined in the Matrix.</p>		

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations prepare timely and accurate bank reconciliations for the Northern Municipal Trust Account, as its policies require.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>The NMTA transitioned its banking reconciliation activities from an external consultant to an internal position (Assistant Accounting Manager). The assistant manager has implemented an improved bank reconciliation process to improve the timelessness of preparation and review.</p>		

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<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations provide the Northern Municipal Trust Account's annual report to the Legislative Assembly in accordance with timelines set in <i>The Executive Government Administration Act</i>.</p> <p>Status – Not Implemented</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>The NMTA hired a professional accountant as the Director of Finance to oversee the completion of year-end reporting.</p>	<p>The NMTA is reviewing its internal processes and working with its stakeholders that provide information for year-end statements to improve timeliness.</p>	<p>April 2023</p>

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Chapter 5, Northern Municipal Trust Account, 2020 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations require management to carry out a detailed review of quarterly and year-end financial information (e.g., financial reports, journal entries, reconciliations) prepared by the staff responsible for recording Northern Municipal Trust Account financial information.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	<p>39</p>	<p>Partially Implemented</p>	<p>The Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) hired a professional accountant as the Director of Finance. The director completes a thorough analysis and review of accounting activities, improving reporting accuracy.</p>	<p>The NMTA is reviewing its processes and implementing improvements to ensure management review is completed on time and documented.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

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<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations prepare timely and accurate bank reconciliations for the Northern Municipal Trust Account, as its policies require.</p> <p>Status – Implemented</p>	<p>39</p>	<p>Implemented</p>			
<p>New: We recommend the Ministry of Government Relations clarify the legislated authority to make grants from the Northern Municipal Trust Account to northern municipalities for landfills not wholly owned by the Ministry.</p>	<p>42</p>	<p>Not Implemented</p>	<p>The NMTA has reviewed the <i>Northern Municipalities Regulations</i>, and authority does not exist to make the grant payments.</p>	<p>The NMTA continues to assess authority in other government legislation. The NMTA will update the <i>Northern Municipalities Regulations</i> if the authority does not exist.</p>	<p>December 2022</p>

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<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations adequately segregate duties of employees responsible for key accounting functions of the Northern Municipal Trust Account.</p> <p>Status – Not Implemented</p>	<p>42</p>	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>The NMTA finalized a Segregation of Duties (SOD) Matrix in 2021, which will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>The NMTA has hired sufficient staff to ensure that segregations are met as outlined in the Matrix.</p>		

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September 6, 2022

Chapter 6, Northern Municipal Trust Account, 2021 Provincial Auditor Report – Volume 2

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<p>Outstanding: We recommended the Ministry of Government Relations require management to carry out a detailed review of quarterly and year-end financial information (e.g., financial reports, journal entries, reconciliations) prepared by the staff responsible for recording Northern Municipal Trust Account financial information.</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	36	Partially Implemented	The Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) hired a professional accountant as the Director of Finance. The director completes a thorough analysis and review of accounting activities, improving reporting accuracy.	The NMTA is reviewing its processes and implementing improvements to ensure management review is completed on time and documented.	December 2022

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