

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**November 21, 2000**

**MINUTE NO. 6**  
**9:15 a.m. — Room 10**

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Krawetz in the Chair and Members Gantefer, Higgins, Jones, Kwiatkowski, Lorje, Stewart, Trew, Wakefield and Wartman.

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Fred Wendel, Acting Provincial Auditor  
Brian Atkinson, Executive Director  
Rodd Jersak, Manager  
Gordon J.K. Neill, Q.C., Legal Counsel

**Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller  
Chris Bayda, Director, Financial Management Branch  
Lori Taylor, Manager, Financial Management Branch  
Lisa Healy, Analyst, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee considered its business agenda for the days November 21<sup>st</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>, as specified on the Notice of Meeting issued by the Chair on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Mr. Kwiatkowski moved the following motion:

That the following be added to the agenda of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts meetings of November 21, 2000 / November 23, 2000:

A discussion and examination of the 2000 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor dealing with issues surrounding the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

A debate arising, and the question being put the motion was negatived.

3. The Committee considered agenda item 4 of the said Notice of Meeting, being the establishment of a future public accounts committee business agenda and timelines. It was moved by Ms. Lorje:

That the Chair seek, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the opinion of the Department of Justice on the following questions:

- 1) Does the Department of Justice anticipate any legal action being taken as a result of the Provincial Auditor's audit report on Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (Volume 2, Fall 2000 Report of the Provincial Auditor), and if so when;
- 2) If legal action is to be taken, could a review of this issue by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts at this time prejudice the rights of individuals or the outcome?

A debate arising, Mr. Kwiatkowski moved the following amendment:

That the motion be amended by deleting point number 2 and that the following be added:

- 2) Could the Public Accounts Committee conduct a review of the issue without prejudicing the outcome or any possible legal action and if so, what should the parameters of that review be?

A debate arising, and the question being put on the amendment, it was agreed to. The debate continuing on the motion as amended, the motion was agreed to.

4. The Committee recessed at 10:20 a.m. until 10:35 a.m.
5. The Chair was asked to forward the contents of the above adopted motion to the Minister of Justice and request a response to the Committee by 1:30 p.m., November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000.
6. The committee considered adoption of the agenda, as specified in the Notice of Meeting issued by the Chair on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000. It was moved by Ms. Higgins:

That the agenda be adopted.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

7. The Committee resumed deliberation on the proposed changes to *The Provincial Auditor Act*; as proposed by the *Special Report by the Provincial Auditor to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan regarding Changes to The Provincial Auditor Act* and the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*.

The following documents were tabled by the Acting Provincial Auditor.

**PAC 7/24 Office of the Provincial Auditor:** Report by the Provincial Auditor's Office to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding recommendations contained in the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's June 2000 report.

**PAC 8/24 Office of the Provincial Auditor:** Report by the Provincial Auditor's Office to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts comparing recommendations of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's June 2000 report with recommendations of the *Special Report by the Provincial Auditor to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan regarding Changes to The Provincial Auditor Act*.

8. The Committee agreed to postpone consideration of changes to *The Provincial Auditor Act* until members of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee could be present to answer questions.

9. The Committee resumed consideration of a process for the appointment of a new Provincial Auditor. In order to deliberate on the role of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the hiring process, it was moved by Ms. Lorje:

That the Committee meet *in-camera* until 1:30 p.m. this day.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. The Committee continued to meet *in-camera*.

10. The Committee recessed at 12:10 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., when it returned to an open session.
11. The Committee considered recommendations 1 through 3 (concerning appointment of the Provincial Auditor) of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*. Both the Provincial Comptroller and Acting Provincial Auditor were asked for a commentary on the said recommendations.
12. The Committee considered recommendation 20 (concerning term of office of Provincial Auditor) of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*. The Committee reiterated its response to this recommendation, made at its June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000 meeting (PAC Minute No. 3, item 5).
13. The Committee considered recommendation 21 (concerning salary of the Provincial Auditor) of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*. It was agreed that in principle the salary needs to be clarified in legislation. The Provincial Comptroller made a suggestion for the wording, which the Committee agreed to take into consideration.
14. The Committee considered recommendation 29 (concerning qualifications of the Provincial Auditor) of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*. The Committee concurred with the recommendation that no changes to *The Provincial Auditor Act* are necessary in this regard.
15. Having dealt with recommendations 1, 2, 3, 20, 21 and 29 of the Minister of Finance's Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee's *Report of the Provincial Auditor Advisory Committee*, which related to the Committee's deliberations on a process for hiring a Provincial Auditor, it was moved by Mr. Wartman:

That the Committee meet *in-camera*.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

16. The Committee recessed at 3:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.
17. The Committee Clerk was asked to prepare a motion, which would form the Committee's recommendation on the process for hiring a Provincial Auditor. It was agreed that the motion would be moved in open session upon conclusion of the other agenda items.

18. The Committee returned to open session, whereupon it was moved by Ms. Higgins:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

19. The Committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m. until Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000, at 1:30 p.m.