

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
December 18, 2000**

**MINUTE NO. 9  
1:30 p.m. - Room 10**

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

**Substituting Members**

Mr. Yates substituting for Ms. Higgins

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Fred Wendel, Acting Provincial Auditor  
Phil Creaser, Principal, Information Technology  
Rodd Jersak, Manager  
Victor Schwab, Manager, Information Technology

**Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller  
Chris Bayda, Director, Financial Management Branch

2. It was moved by Mr. Kwiatkowski:

That the proposed agenda be adopted.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. The Chair reviewed the Committee's procedure to consider the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor.
4. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 17 (Planning for 2000) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* and Chapter 15 (Learning from Year 2000) of the *Fall 2000 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Creaser of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapters.

The following officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Larry Spanier, Deputy Minister, Economic and Co-operative Development  
Robert Hersche, Executive Director, Policy and Planning/Telecommunications, Information Technology Office, Economic and Co-operative Development  
Tim Whelan, Senior Advisor, Electronic Government, Information Technology Office, Economic and Co-operative Development  
Neil Gardner, Executive Director, Corporate Information and Technology Branch, Saskatchewan Health  
Jack Wilkie, Manager, Technology Solutions, Corporate Information and Technology Branch, Saskatchewan Health  
Mike Shaw, Senior Vice-President, Crown Investments Corporation

5. The Committee concurred with recommendation 17-1 made at page 338 of Chapter 17 (Planning for 2000) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that the Y2K Office, CIC and the Department of Health record the lessons learned from the Year 2000 work so that they can be used in future government projects. The Committee noted that the government has complied with the recommendation.
6. The Committee recessed from 2:20 p.m. until 2:50 p.m.
7. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 11 (Information Technology Security) of the *Spring 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor* and Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Mr. Schwab of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapters.

The following Economic and Co-operative Development officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Larry Spanier, Deputy Minister

Robert Hersche, Executive Director, Policy and Planning/Telecommunications, Information Technology Office

Tim Whelan, Senior Advisor, Electronic Government, Information Technology Office

8. The Committee noted that many of the 21 recommendations in these Chapters had been considered and dealt with in earlier Committee reports. The Committee agreed to deal with only the five new recommendations and that no further update was required on the recommendations previously dealt with.
9. The Committee concurred with recommendation 18-5 made at page 352 of Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that agencies should continue to monitor their security policies and procedures to ensure that they meet the needs of the agency and meet or exceed minimum standards. The Committee noted that the government is making progress towards compliance with the recommendation.
10. The Committee concurred with recommendation 18-9 made at page 354 of Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that agencies should ensure they have written policies and procedures for revoking employee access to information when their employment ends. The Committee noted that the government is making progress towards compliance with the recommendation.
11. The Committee concurred with recommendation 18-10 made at page 355 of Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that agencies should determine their physical security needs and assess the adequacy of their security measures. The Committee noted that the government is making progress towards compliance with the recommendation.
12. The Committee concurred with recommendation 18-12 made at page 355 of Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that agencies should ensure their service contracts include requirements for security and confidentiality. The Committee noted that the government is making progress towards compliance with the recommendation.

13. The Committee concurred with recommendation 18-17 made at page 358 of Chapter 18 (Information Technology Security) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, that agencies should ensure specify which systems are critical to the mission of the agency. The Committee noted that the government is making progress towards compliance with the recommendation.
14. It was moved by Mr. Yates:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.
15. The Committee adjourned at 4:09 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

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Ken Krawetz  
Committee Chair