

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

December 19, 2000

MINUTE NO. 10

9:00 a.m. - Room 10

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

Other Members

Mr. Huyghebaert, Mr. Yates

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Acting Provincial Auditor

Ed Montgomery, Executive Director

Dale Markewich, Acting Executive Director

Phil Creaser, Principal, Information Technology

Rodd Jersak, Manager

Mark Anderson, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 17 (Standing Committee on Public Accounts) of the *Spring 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Jersak of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.
3. The Committee accepted the suggestion of the Office of the Provincial Auditor to defer any decision on Chapter 17 until the Spring 2001 when a revised chapter would be provided.
4. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 13 (Board of Internal Economy) of the *Fall 1999 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*.
5. The Committee agreed to defer a decision on Chapter 13 pending a report by the Clerk on the practice of the Committee with respect to the review of the Provincial Auditor's reports on the Board of Internal Economy.
6. The Committee recessed from 9:50 a.m. until 10:20 a.m.
7. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 12 (An Overview of Privacy) of the *Spring 2000 Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Anderson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.
8. The Committee noted that the Chapter was received for informational purposes and that there were no recommendations to report on.

9. The Committee proceeded to discuss the recommendation of the Provincial Auditor on a process to address the overlap of business between the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations. Mr. Wendel of the Office of the Provincial Auditor and Mr. Paton of the Provincial Comptroller's Office provided an overview of the matter.

Mr. Wendel tabled the following document:

PAC 11/24 – Office the of Provincial Auditor: The form of the Provincial Auditor's Reports to the Legislative Assembly, dated December 19, 2001

A discussion ensued and it was then moved by Mr. Gantefer:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommend that The Provincial Auditor Act be amended to authorize the referral of the Auditor's report on CIC (Crown Investments Corporation) Crown corporations and their subsidiaries be directed to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

10. The Committee recessed from 11:10 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.
11. The Committee proceeded to consider the *Fall 2000 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* (Understanding the Finances of Government). Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Department of Finance officials appeared before the Committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Paul Boothe, Deputy Minister
Naomi Mellor – Executive Director

12. The Committee recessed from 1:05 p.m. until 1:20 p.m.
13. The Committee resumed consideration of *Fall 2000 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* (Understanding the Finances of Government) and recommendations 1 and 2 made on page 18. It was then moved by Ms. Lorje:

Firstly that the Committee notes considerable progress in the matter of government reporting and further recognizes that there is ongoing work in CIC and Executive government on strategic planning and performance measurement; and

Secondly, that the Committee also recognizes there is an appropriate separation between CIC budgeting and Executive Council budgeting, and further recognizes that these budgets are linked through the CIC dividend. The Committee believes this is an appropriate budgeting process.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

14. It was moved by Mr. Stewart:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

15. The Committee adjourned at 1:24 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Ken Krawetz
Committee Chair