

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 23, 2002

MINUTE NO. 31

9:00 a.m. - Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Krawetz in the Chair and Members Atkinson, Gantefoer, Goulet, Harper, Junor, Kwiatkowski, Stewart, Trew* and Wakefield.

Substituting Members

Mr. Trew for Mr. McCall

Other Members

Mr. Weekes

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Brian Atkinson, Assistant Provincial Auditor

Mobashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rodd Jersak, Principal

Rod Grabarczyk, Principal

Rosemarie Volk, Principal

Mark Anderson, Manager

Jeff Kress, Manager

Victor Schwab, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 8 (Workers' Compensation Board) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Workers' Compensation Board officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

John Solomon, Chairman

Peter Federko, Chief Executive Officer

John Aitken, Partner, Deloitte & Touche

3. The following document was tabled:

PAC 27/24 – Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board: Board Decision #ADM 13/2000, regarding corporate governance, dated December 21, 2000

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-1 made at page 80 of Chapter 8 (Workers' Compensation Board) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor* that the Workers' Compensation Board should establish rules and procedures to ensure that its monthly financial reports:

- Include written explanations for differences between the actual claim payments and the budgeted claim payments;
- Reflect the impact of claim payment experience on the estimated cost of existing claims that the WCB will have to pay in the future; and
- Include projected results of its operation to the end of the year together with the key assumptions used to make the projection.

The committee noted that the Workers' Compensation Board is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

5. The committee recessed from 10:00 a.m. until 10:35 a.m.
6. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 14 (Justice) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Kress of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Department of Justice officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Doug Moen, Q.C., Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General
Keith Laxdal, Associate Deputy Minister, Finance & Administration
Rod Crook, Executive Director, Courts and Civil Justice
Ron Kruzeniski, Q.C, Public Trustee
Gordon Sisson, Director, Administrative Services
Mike Pestill, Manager, Financial Services

7. The Chair advised the committee that he had received a response from the Department of Justice indicating that while the investigation into the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority had been completed, the Public Prosecutions Office was currently reviewing the matter. The Department of Justice reaffirmed its recommendation that the committee continue to postpone its review of the Provincial Auditor's Reports until the matter has been resolved.

The committee then agreed to continue postponing its review until a later date.

8. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 2 (Electronic Service Delivery in Government) of the *2001 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Mr. Schwab of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Information Technology Office officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

John Law, Chief Information and Services Officer
Laurie Crowle, Project Development Officer
Eileen McCrank, Manager, Electronic Services Development
Tim Whelan, Senior Advisor, Security and Privacy

9. The committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 24th.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Ken Krawetz
Committee Chair