

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 24, 2002

### MINUTE NO. 32

9:00 a.m. - Room 10

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

#### **Substituting Members**

Mr. Trew for Mr. McCall

#### **Provincial Auditor's Office**

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor  
Brian Atkinson, Assistant Provincial Auditor  
Mobashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Rodd Jersak, Principal  
Jane Knox, Principal  
Corrine Rybchuk, Principal  
Mark Anderson, Manager  
Charlene Paul, Manager

#### **Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller  
Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch  
Jane Borland, Manager, Financial Management Branch  
Tamara Stocker, Analyst, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 10 (Finance – Learning culture for reporting results) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Ms. Knox 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

Ron Styles, Deputy Minister  
Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller, Provincial Comptroller's Division  
Glen Veikle, Assistant Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Branch  
Al Dennett, Executive Director, Estimates, Operations Section, Treasury Board Branch  
Naomi Mellor, Executive Director, Performance Management Branch  
Kent Walde, Director, Research and Board Secretary, Public Employees Benefits Agency

3. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-1 made at page 104 of Chapter 10 (Finance – Learning culture for reporting results) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor* that the Department of Finance should give departments a multi-year timetable with targets for incremental improvement in performance plans and reports of results. The committee noted that the Department of Finance is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-2 made at page 104 of Chapter 10 (Finance – Learning culture for reporting results) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor* that the Department of Finance should be proactive in establishing a web site or intranet among departments to communicate best practices from research and innovations for improved performance management and reporting. The committee noted that the Department of Finance is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 15 (Liquor Board Superannuation Commission) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 15-1 made at page 148 of Chapter 15 (Liquor Board Superannuation Commission) of the *2002 Spring Report of the Provincial Auditor* that the Liquor Board Superannuation Commission should establish rules and procedures to verify the investment manager's compliance reports.
7. The committee recessed from 9:45 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.
8. The committee proceeded to consider the *Fall 2001 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* and the *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. A joint presentation was given by Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor and Mr. Styles and Mr. Dennett of the Department of Finance.
9. The committee then considered recommendation 1 made at page 25 of *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Government of Saskatchewan should publish a financial plan for the entire Government. It was moved by Mr. Gantefer that:

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts concurs with this recommendation.

The question being put, the motion was defeated. It was then moved by Ms. Atkinson that:

In light of the fact that there are a number of concerns related to Summary Financial Statements budgeting and in light of the fact that *The Balanced Budget Act* pertains to the General Revenue Fund and covers the four year period ending 2003-2004, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts recommends that the Minister of Finance have his officials continue to examine this issue and discuss it further with the Provincial Auditor.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

10. The committee recessed from 12:04 p.m. until 1:15 p.m.

11. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 4 (Managing accountability risks in public-private partnerships) of the *2001 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Mr. Anderson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Crown Investments Corporation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Frank Hart, President and Chief Executive Officer

Brian Hansen, Executive Director, Public-Private Partnerships, Corporate Development

Peter Wyant, Director, Investments and Public-Private Partnerships

12. The following document was tabled:

**PAC 28/24 – Crown Investments Corporation:** Public-Private Partnerships – Saskatchewan Criteria.

13. The committee adjourned at 2:07 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

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Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

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Ken Krawetz  
Committee Chair