

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
December 17, 2002

MINUTE NO. 34
8:30 a.m. - Room 10

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

Substituting Members

Mr. Forbes for Ms. Atkinson
Mr. Yates for Mr. McCall

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor
Brian Atkinson, Assistant Provincial Auditor
Angèle Borys, Principal, Support Services
Heather Tomlin, Assistant to the Manager, Administration

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 30/24 – Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: Correspondence from the Gord Nystuen, Deputy Minister to Ken Krawetz, Chair, dated November 8, 2002, re: Fall stubble subsoil moisture levels for 1998 to 2002.

PAC 31/24 – Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization: Correspondence from the Gord Nystuen, Deputy Minister to Ken Krawetz, Chair, dated November 14, 2002, re: Historical information on crop insurance claims by region for 1996 to 2002.

PAC 32/24 – Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board: Correspondence from John Solomon, Chairman, to Ken Krawetz, Chair, dated October 29, 2002, re: WCB projected statement of operations, WCB premiums across Canada 2001-2003; and 2002 statement of operations (third quarter).

PAC 33/24 – Saskatchewan Industry and Resources: Correspondence from Larry Spanier, Deputy Minister, to Ken Krawetz, Chair, dated November 28/2002, re: Briefing note on NewGrade Energy Inc. NewGrade Royalty Rebate.

PAC 34/24 – Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs: Correspondence from Brent Cotter, Deputy Minister, to Ken Krawetz, Chair, dated December 4, 2002, re: eligibility of Indian Bands to receive funding from the First Nations Fund.

3. The committee proceeded to consider the Business and Financial Plan of the Office of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 2004. Mr. Wendel provided an overview of the plan and answered questions.
4. It was moved by Mr. Gantefoer:

That the 2003-2004 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA01 – Provincial Auditor) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$5,277,000.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

5. It was moved by Mr. Harper:

That the 2003-2004 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA02 – Unforeseen Expenses) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$350,000.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

6. It was moved by Ms. Junor:

That the Estimates as approved be forwarded to the Speaker as Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, pursuant to section 10.1(4) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

7. The Chair advised the committee that an invitation had been received from the Chairman of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees to attend the International Conference on Emerging Issues for Public Accounts Committees and similar type Committees early next year. A discussion ensued and it was moved by Mr. Harper:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair and Vice-chair at the International Conference on Emerging Issues for Public Accounts Committees and similar type Committees to be held in Melbourne, Australia, February 2nd to 5th, 2003;

And further, that if the Chair or Vice-chair cannot attend, they be authorized to designate another committee member to attend in their place.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

8. The committee adjourned at 9:30 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Ken Krawetz
Committee Chair