

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

June 1, 2004

MINUTE NO. 6

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Dearborn*, Hagel, Krawetz, Morin*, Trew and Yates.

Substituting Members

Mr. Dearborn for Mr. Hart

Ms. Morin for Mr. Hagel (for the period 10:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.)

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Mike Heffernan, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rodd Jersak, Principal

Jeff Kress, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 6 (Justice) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Mike Heffernan 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

Keith Laxdal, Associate Deputy Minister, Finance and Administration

Rod Crook, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Civil Justice

J. Gordon Sisson, Director, Administrative Services

Deb Barker, Director, Financial Services and Fine Collections

Mike Pestill, Senior Financial Policy Analyst, Administrative Services

3. The committee concurred with recommendation 6-1 made at page 182 of Chapter 6 (Justice) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should focus the work of its internal auditor on the processes and transactions where the Department is at greatest risk of loss of public money or spending money for unintended purposes. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
4. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 14 (Culture, Youth and Recreation) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Judy Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Angie Gélinas, Deputy Minister

Dylan Jones, Executive Director, Strategic Policy and Youth

Dawn Martin, Executive Director, Culture and Heritage Branch

Melinda Gorrill, Director, Administration

Val Sluth, Director, Sport and Recreation Branch

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 14-1 made at page 286 of Chapter 14 (Culture, Youth and Recreation) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation should document better its administrative policies and procedures to ensure it records transactions properly and promptly. The committee noted that the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee next considered its representation at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees 25th Annual Conference. It was moved by Mr. Borgerson:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, one government member and one opposition member at the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee to be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, August 29th to 31st, 2004, 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, it was agreed.

7. The committee adjourned at 11:46 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2004.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair