

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

June 8, 2004

MINUTE NO. 7

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Draude*, Hagel, Hart, Trew and Yates.

Substituting Members

Ms. Draude for Mr. Krawetz

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rodd Jersak, Principal

Jane Knox, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee resumed its consideration of the Audit Committee and the recommendation of an individual to serve as chairperson. It was moved by Mr. Yates:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts unanimously recommend to the Speaker the re-appointment of Dr. Morina Rennie as chairperson of the Audit Committee for the 25th Legislature.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

3. The committee proceeded to consider pages 200-2002 and pages 206-215 of Chapter 8 (Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2002 Fall Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*, Chapter 5 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* and Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapters.

The following Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Brent Cotter, Deputy Minister

Larry Steeves, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

Donavon Young, Assistant Deputy Minister, Aboriginal Affairs

Wanda Lamberti, Executive Director, Finance and Management Services

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 5-1 made at page 106 of Chapter 5 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should take adequate steps to ensure the information used to evaluate its progress toward increased participation of Aboriginal people in the provincial workforce is consistent and reliable. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The committee concurred with recommendation 5-2 made at page 106 of Chapter 5 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should inform the public of its progress in achieving short, mid, and long-term measurable targets that contribute to the increased participation of Aboriginal people in the provincial workforce. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15, 2004.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair