

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

June 15, 2004

### MINUTE NO. 8

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

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

#### **Other Members**

Mr. Chisholm

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

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Mark Anderson, Principal

Phil Creaser, Principal

Rodd Jersak, Principal

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

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

Larry Boys, Manager, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee resumed consideration of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*.

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

Wanda Lamberti, Executive Director, Finance and Management Services

Randy Braaten, Director, Northern Municipal Services

3. The following document was tabled:

**PAC 4/04 – Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs:** Responses to questions raised at the June 8, 2004 meeting, re:

- AEDP Partnerships to Date;
- 2002 Framework Agreement, between Government of Saskatchewan (Minister responsible for SLGA) and FSIN, dated June 11, 2002;
- First Nations Fund Annual Report 2002-2003.

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-1 made at page 191 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should ensure that it receives sufficient and timely information from each community development corporation to determine if each corporation properly managed public money and spent it only as permitted by law. 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 7-2 made at page 192 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should provide the Office of the Provincial Auditor with the necessary access to the accounts of the First Nations Fund. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with future accountability.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-3 made at page 195 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should set out the reports it needs to monitor the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account's operations, and set up a process to oversee the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account's operations. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
7. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-4 made at page 196 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should set up processes to prepare accurate financial statements for the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-5 made at page 196 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should obtain approval for the pay of Board members of the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account Management Board. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs has complied with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-6 made at page 197 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should improve the information it provides to the Legislative Assembly on the operations of the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-7 made at page 198 of Chapter 7 (Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs) of the *2003 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs should provide the Legislative Assembly with a list of persons who received money from the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account in accordance with the standards established by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The committee noted that the Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs has complied with the recommendation.
11. The committee adjourned at 11:49 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to the call of the chair.

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Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

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Elwin Hermanson  
Committee Chair