

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

December 1, 2004

MINUTE NO. 13

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

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

Other Member

Mr. Huyghebaert

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rod Grabarczyk, Principal

Rodd Jersak, Principal

Corrine Rybchuk, Principal

Charlene Drotar, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following document was tabled:

PAC 11/25 – Department of Community Resources and Employment: responses to questions raised at the September 28, 2004 meeting of the committee, re: the funding allocation process for the Regional Intersectoral Committees, property vacancy and waiting list information from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, dated November 8, 2004.

3. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Department of Environment officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Lily Stonehouse, Deputy Minister

Dave Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource and Environmental Stewardship Division

Joe Muldoon, Executive Director, Environmental Protection

Donna Johnson, Director, Finance and Administration, Corporate Services

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-1 made at page 146 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should establish processes to obtain Minister's Orders for waiving permits for minor sources of air contaminants. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-2 made at page 146 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should set sound and consistent terms and conditions for permits to regulate air emissions. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-3 made at page 146 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should establish processes to ensure permits to regulate air emissions are properly approved and expired permits are followed up promptly. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
7. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-4 made at page 148 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should set sound and consistent processes for monitoring compliance with permits to regulate air emissions and for handling air emission complaints. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-5 made at page 149 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should complete its human resource plan including a plan for employee training to regulate air emissions. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-6 made at page 150 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should establish systems to collect and maintain information to prepare reliable reports. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 10-7 made at page 151 of Chapter 10 (Environment) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Department of Environment should improve its internal and external reporting on air emissions. The committee noted that the Department of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
11. The committee recessed from 12:08 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

12. The committee proceeded to consider the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Mr. Montgomery 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

Joanne Brockman, Executive Director, Economic and Fiscal Policy Branch, Budget Analysis Division

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch, Provincial Comptroller's Division

13. The committee adjourned at 3:14 p.m. to the call of the chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair