

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

March 1, 2005

MINUTE NO. 16

9:00 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Cheveldayoff*, D'Autremont*, Dearborn*, Hagel, Trew and Yates.

Substituting Members

Mr. Cheveldayoff for Mr. Hart (for consideration of Processes needed to manage IT and Chief Electoral Officer only)

Mr. D'Autremont for Mr. Hart (for consideration of Liquor and Gaming Authority only)

Mr. Dearborn for Mr. Krawetz

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rod Grabarczyk, Principal

Carolyn Kirchner, Principal

Jeff Kress, Principal

Victor Schwab, Principal

Bill Harasymchuk, Manager

Kim Lowe, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 16/25 - Department of Labour: Response to question raised at the January 18, 2005 meeting of the committee, re: closure of files in the Office of the Worker's Advocate, dated January 31, 2005.

PAC 17/25 – Department of Government Relations: Response to question raised at the January 18, 2005 meeting of the committee, re: review / renewal of *The Northern Municipalities Act* and the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account, dated February 23, 2005.

3. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 5 (Liquor and Gaming Authority) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Sandra Morgan, President and Chief Executive Officer

Jolene Beblow, Vice President, Gaming Operations Division

Barry Lacey, Vice President, Corporate Services Division

Dale Markewich, Vice President, Regulatory Compliance Division

Paul Weber, Vice President, Retail Operations Division

Jim Engel, Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division

Brian Keith, Executive Assistant to the President
Faye Rafter, Executive Director, Compliance Branch, Regulatory Compliance
Lisa Ann Wood, Executive Director, Human Relations Division

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 5B-1 made at page 174 of Chapter 5 (Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc. should provide annual audited financial statements to the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and the Director of the Corporations Branch in accordance with the 2002 Casino Operating Agreement and *The Non-Profit Corporations Regulations, 1997*. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc. is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The committee recessed from 10:27 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.
6. It was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That the Public Accounts Committee express its unconditional support for the office and role of the Provincial Auditor in ensuring that the taxes collected, the finances and financial position of the province are properly accounted for and accurately reported to the Legislature and the people of Saskatchewan;

And that the Public Accounts Committee recommend that the services of the Provincial Auditor and the Provincial Auditor's Office be made available to provide advice, if requested by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), to assist the FSIN with the establishment of an auditing institution, and that this offer be communicated to the FSIN.

The question being put and a debate arising, it was on motion of Mr. Yates, adjourned.

7. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 7 (Processes needed to manage IT) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Kress of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Information Technology Office officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Don Wincherauk, Chief Information and Services Officer
Richard Murray, Executive Director, Policy and Planning
Fred Antunes, Executive Director, Corporate and Customer Services
Rory Norton, Executive Director, Operations, Corporate Information Services

8. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 16 (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Office of the Chief Electoral Officer officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer
David Wilkie, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-1 made at page 303 of Chapter 16 (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Electoral Office should table in the Legislative Assembly an annual report within the time period required by *The Election Act, 1996*. The committee noted that the Electoral Office is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-2 made at page 303 of Chapter 16 (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer) of the *2004 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Electoral Office should use a consistent reporting date for reporting of its planned activities and actual results. The committee noted that the Electoral Office is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
11. The committee adjourned at 11:54 a.m. to the call of the chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair