

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

February 6, 2006

MINUTE NO. 27

10:00 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Chisholm, Crofford*, Draude*, Iwanchuk*, Morgan* and Trew.

Substituting Members

Ms. Crofford for Mr. Hagel

Ms. Draude for Mr. Cheveldayoff (morning session)

Mr. Iwanchuk for Mr. Yates

Mr. Morgan for Mr. Cheveldayoff (afternoon session)

Other Member

Mr. Huyghebaert

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Brian Atkinson, Assistant Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Angèle Borys, Principal – Support Services

Kelly Deis, Principal

Charlene Drotar, Manager

Kim Lowe, Manager

Sandy Walker, Manager – Administration

Heather Tomlin, Data Systems Administrator

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider the Business and Financial Plan of the Office of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 2007. Mr. Wendel provided an overview of the plan and answered questions.

3. It was moved by Mr. Borgerson:

That the 2006-2007 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA01 – Provincial Auditor) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$5,545,000.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

4. It was moved by Mr. Borgerson:

That the 2006-2007 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA02 – Unforeseen Expenses) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$359,000.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

5. It was moved by Mr. Borgerson:

That the Estimates as approved be forwarded to the Speaker as Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, pursuant to section 10.1(4) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

6. The committee recessed from 10:38 a.m. until 10:55 a.m.
7. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 12 (First Nations and Métis Relations) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Department of First Nations and Métis Relations officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Nora Sanders, Deputy Minister
John Reid, Executive Director, Aboriginal Policy and Operations Branch
Trisha Delormier-Hill, Executive Director, Lands and Resources Branch
Laurier Donais, Director, Finance, Accountability and Corporate Services Branch
Rob Spelliscy, Director, Gaming, Trusts and Grants Branch
Jennifer Brass, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister

8. The committee recessed from 11:58 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
9. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 13 (Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Deis 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 of Justice and Deputy Attorney General
Rod Crook, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Civil Justice Division
Murray Sawatsky, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Services, Community Justice Division
Daryl Rayner, Q.C., Director of Prosecutors, Public Prosecutions
Deb Barker, Director, Financial Services & Fine Collection Court Services, Administration Support, Courts and Civil Justice Division
Mike Pestill, Director, Assurance & Financial Reporting, Administrative Services Branch, Finance and Administration Division
J. Gordon Sisson, Director, Administrative Services Branch, Finance and Administration Division

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 13-1 made at page 286 of Chapter 13 (Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should segregate the duties of employees handling cash and recording cash receipts at the Local Registrar offices. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 13-2 made at page 286 of Chapter 13 (Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should segregate the duties of employees that approve changes to eligible suppliers, approve payments to suppliers, and record payments to suppliers at the Administrative Services Branch. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
12. The committee concurred with recommendation 13-3 made at page 286 of Chapter 13 (Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should segregate the duties of employees preparing and approving accounting entries at the Administrative Services Branch. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
13. The committee concurred with recommendation 13-4 made at page 287 of Chapter 13 (Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should complete and implement its business continuity plan. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
14. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 18 (Office of the Executive Council) of the *2005 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 Executive Council officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister to the Premier
Bonita Cairns, Director, Corporate Services, Deputy Minister's Office
Tracy Sletto, Director, Senior Management Services, Deputy Minister's Office

15. The committee did not concur with recommendation 18-1 made at page 324 of Chapter 18 (Office of the Executive Council) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that each year the Office of the Executive Council should provide the Legislative Assembly its performance plan and annual report prepared using the Government's Accountability Framework.
16. The committee concurred with recommendation 18-2 made at page 325 of Chapter 18 (Office of the Executive Council) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Office of the Executive Council should complete the development of systems to measure work performed and results achieved for its key performance measures. The committee noted that the Office of the Executive Council is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
17. The committee recessed from 2:36 p.m. until 2:55 p.m.

18. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 20 (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Lowe of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Deb McDonald, Deputy Minister

Garth Rusconi, Assistant Deputy Minister, Accommodation Services Division

Dale Minion, Director, Divisional Support Services, Accommodation Services Division

19. The committee concurred with recommendation 20-1 made at page 334 of Chapter 20 (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that management of the Department of Property Management should document the process and basis for accounting estimates.
20. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 19 (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Justice) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Elections Saskatchewan officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Jean Ouellet, Chief Electoral Officer

Dave Wilkie, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer

Brent Nadon, Manager, Election Finances

21. The committee adjourned at 3:44 p.m. to the call of the chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair