

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

March 9, 2006

### MINUTE NO. 28

9:15 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Borgerson, Cheveldayoff, Chisholm, Hamilton\*, Trew and Yates.

#### **Substituting Member**

Ms. Hamilton for Mr. Hagel

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

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Mike Heffernan, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Kelly Deis, Principal

Rosemarie Volk, Principal

Kim Lowe, Manager

Regan Sommerfeld, Manager

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

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

**PAC 28/25 – Elections Saskatchewan:** Response to question raised at the February 6, 2006 meeting of the committee, re: Non-filing candidate in the November 2003 provincial election, dated February 7, 2006.

**PAC 29/25 – First Nations and Métis Relations:** Response to questions raised at the February 6, 2006 meeting of the committee, re: the number of departmental aboriginal employees, funds transferred from the First Nations Fund, and First Nations not party to the FSIN's Convention Act, dated February 21, 2006.

3. Mr. Cheveldayoff moved the following motion:

That this committee request the Provincial Auditor to carry out an immediate special investigation of the services, administration, and operations of the Oyate Safe House including any allegations of wrong-doing.

A debate arising and the question being put, the question was agreed to.

4. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 2 (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Heffernan of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

#### Witnesses

John Wright, Deputy Minister

Duncan Fisher, Assistant Deputy Minister

Bonnie Blakley, Executive Director, Workforce Planning Branch

Witnesses (continued)

Lauren Donnelly, Executive Director, Acute and Emergency Services Branch

Ted Warawa, Executive Director, Finance and Administration Branch

Rod Wiley, Executive Director, Regional Policy Branch

Margaret Baker, Director, Pharmaceutical Services, Drug Plan and Extended Benefits

Garth Herbert, Internal Auditor, Finance and Administration Branch

Gina Clark, Masters of Public Administration Intern Student

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-1 made at page 37 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Health should establish written policies and procedures for monitoring the regional health authorities' performance reports and taking corrective action when required. The committee noted that the Department of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-2 made at page 38 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Health should focus the work of its internal auditor on the activities where Health is at greatest risk of loss of public money or spending money for unintended purposes. The committee noted that the Department of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
7. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-3 made at page 41 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Health should prepare a complete business continuity plan. The committee noted that the Department of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-4 made at page 46 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Board of the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation should complete setting the performance targets needed to monitor progress in achieving objectives. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-5 made at page 46 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation should complete a format threat and risk analysis of its information technology to ensure its processes are adequate to protect its systems and data. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-6 made at page 47 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation should prepare a complete business continuity plan. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
11. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-7 made at page 50 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations should ensure that payments for dental benefits comply with the agreements with the insurance company and the plan texts. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-8 made at page 50 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations should make service agreements with each healthcare agency for all the services it provides. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
13. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-9 made at page 51 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations should prepare, approve and implement written security policies and procedures for its information systems. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
14. The committee concurred with recommendation 2A-10 made at page 51 of Chapter 2A (Health) of the *2005 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations should prepare an information technology disaster recovery plan. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
15. The committee adjourned at 11:05 a.m. to the call of the chair.

---

Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

---

Elwin Hermanson  
Committee Chair