

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

April 17, 2007

MINUTE NO. 47

10:30 a.m. - Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Hermanson in the Chair and Members Cheveldayoff, Chisholm, Crofford, Iwanchuk, Trew and Yates*.

Substituting Member

Mr. Yates for Mr. Borgerson

Other Member

Ms. Draude

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Jane Knox, Principal

Kim Lowe, Principal

Melanie Heebner, Manager

Trevor St. John, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 53/25 - Department of Learning: Response to question raised at the March 20, 2007 meeting of the committee, re: compliance by school divisions with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, dated April 4, 2007.

PAC 54/25 – Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board: Response to question raised at the February 23, 2007 meeting of the committee, re: status of disenfranchised widow regarding survivor benefits, dated April 2, 2007.

3. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 7 (Public Service Commission) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Public Service Commission officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Clare Isman, Chair

Rick McKillop, Executive Director, Employee Relations, Policy and Planning

Lynn Jacobson, Director, Corporate Services

Dawna Griffith, Director, Recruitment and Employment Program

Jocelyn Souliere, Director, Policy, Planning and Evaluation

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-1 made at page 227 of Chapter 7 (Public Service Commission) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Public Service Commission should revise its own human resource plan to include the following:

- a prioritized listing of human resource risks specific to the Public Service Commission;
- detailed strategies to bridge identified gaps in human resource needs specific to the Public Service Commission; and
- assignments of responsibility and deadlines for implementing major strategies.

The committee noted that the Public Service Commission has complied with the recommendation.

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-2 made at page 228 of Chapter 7 (Public Service Commission) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Public Service Commission should sign a service-level agreement with the Information Technology Office for information technology services. The committee noted that the Public Service Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 19 (First Nations and Métis Relations) of the *2006 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

Richard Gladue, Deputy Minister
John Reid, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Seonaid MacPherson, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives
Trisha Delormier-Hill, Executive Director, Lands and Resources
Giselle Marcotte, Acting Executive Director, Policy and Operations
Laurier Donais, Director, Finance and Corporate Services
Kerry Gray, Director, Gaming Trust and Grants
Jennifer Brass, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 19-1 made at page 399 of Chapter 19 (First Nations and Métis Relations) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations should complete the development of its performance plan including the identification of measures and selection of performance targets related to its goals and objectives. The committee noted that the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 19-2 made at page 400 of Chapter 19 (First Nations and Métis Relations) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations should prepare a human resource plan. The committee noted that the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee adjourned at 11:48 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Elwin Hermanson
Committee Chair