

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

May 1, 2007

### MINUTE NO. 48 10:30 a.m. - Room 8

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

#### **Substituting Members**

Mr. Allchurch for Mr. Cheveldayoff (for consideration of the Department of Northern Affairs)

Mr. Morgan for Mr. Cheveldayoff (for consideration of the Department of Justice)

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

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Kelly Deis, Principal

Charlene Drotar, Principal

Kim Lowe, Principal

Victor Schwab, Principal

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

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

**PAC 55/25 – Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board:** Response to question raised at the February 23, 2007 meeting of the committee, re: Early Intervention treatment for injured workers, dated April 16, 2007.

**PAC 56/25 – Advanced Education and Employment:** Response to question raised at the March 20, 2007 meeting of the committee, re: provincial training allowance and enrollment projections for the post-secondary sector, dated April 24, 2007.

3. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 16 (Justice) of the *2006 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

Keith Laxdal, Associate Deputy Minister, Finance and Administration

Rod Crook, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Civil Justice

Murray Brown, Q.C., Executive Director, Public Prosecutions

Witnesses (continued)

Jan Turner, Executive Director, Community Justice

Ron Kruzeniski, Q.C., Public Guardian and Trustee

Deb Barker, Director, Financial Services & Fine Collection, Court Services

Mike Pestill, Director, Assurance & Financial Reporting, Administrative Services Branch

J. Gordon Sisson, Director, Administrative Services

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-1 made at page 378 of Chapter 16 (Justice) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should secure and monitor access to information technology systems and data. The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-2 made at page 379 of Chapter 16 (Justice) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Justice should improve its human resource plan by:
  - Quantifying its human resource needs;
  - Providing details on the human resource gap between actual and required resources; and
  - Providing measurable indicators and targets.The committee noted that the Department of Justice is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-3 made at page 381 of Chapter 16 (Justice) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Public Guardian and Trustee of Saskatchewan should fix its payment system to reduce the risk of duplicate payments. The committee noted that the Public Guardian and Trustee of Saskatchewan is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
7. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 18 (Northern Affairs) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Alan Hilton, Deputy Minister

Anita Jones, Executive Director, Planning and Financial Management

Gerald DesRoches, Senior Account Manager, Northern Development Fund

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 18-1 made at page 393 of Chapter 18 (Northern Affairs) of the *2006 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Department of Northern Affairs should follow its established procedures for approving loans and having all required loan documents completed before disbursing loans under the Northern Development Fund Loan Program. The committee noted that the Department of Northern Affairs is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

9. The committee next considered its representation at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. It was moved by Ms. Crofford:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, one government member of the committee and one opposition member of the committee at the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, August 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007, and further that if the Chair or Vice-Chair cannot attend, they be authorized to designate another committee member to attend in their place.

The question being put, it was agreed.

10. The committee adjourned at 11:36 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

---

Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

---

Elwin Hermanson  
Committee Chair