

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Wednesday, February 10, 2016

MINUTE NO. 42
11:03 a.m. — Māwawapiwin Room (Room 8)

1. **Present:** Danielle Chartier in the chair and members Greg Brkich*, Larry Doke, Glen Hart, Warren Michelson, Don Toth*, and Trent Wotherspoon.

Substituting Members

Greg Brkich for Randy Weekes
Don Toth for Russ Marchuk

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 62/27 — Office of the Provincial Auditor: 3rd Quarter Financial Forecast for the nine months ending December 31, 2015, dated January 26, 2016;

PAC 63/27 — Ministry of Finance: Reporting of public losses October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, dated January 29, 2016;

PAC 64/27 — Ministry of Health: Reporting of public losses October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, dated January 29, 2016.

3. The committee considered a special assignment for the Provincial Auditor.

The following document was tabled:

PAC 65/27 — Office of the Provincial Auditor: Correspondence Re: Lieutenant Governor in Council Request for Special Assignment about the Global Transportation Hub, dated February 9, 2016.

4. The following Office of the Provincial Auditor officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor
Mobashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Kelly Deis, Deputy Provincial Auditor

5. It was moved by Mr. Doke:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts supports the work plan outlined by the Provincial Auditor in her letter of February 9th, 2016, which was tabled with the committee on February 10th, 2016, and;

Further, that the committee agree to the request that the Office of the Provincial Auditor be given the authority to release the completed report.

A debate arising, the committee recessed from 11:33 a.m. until 11:48 a.m.

6. The debate being resumed on the motion, the committee recessed from 11:52 until 12:15 p.m.
7. The debate being resumed on the motion, it was moved by Mr. Wotherspoon in amendment thereto:

That the motion be amended by removing all the words after “2016” and inserting the following:

“and that the Public Accounts Committee in addition to the other requests as mentioned in the auditor’s letter above hereby requests that the Provincial Auditor perform a special assignment to fully examine the land purchase, including whether the premier, minister responsible for the Global Transportation Hub, or any other cabinet minister or government official misused public resources, violated appropriate policies and procedures or failed to negotiate in the best interests of taxpayers in regard to the land acquisition detailed in Order-in-Council 44/2014, which was signed by the premier on February 27, 2014; and, further,

If this investigation is too complex to complete before the election, the Public Accounts Committee requests that the Provincial Auditor provide an interim report about the progress of the investigation and any findings which are already clear, to provide as much relevant information to Saskatchewan people as possible before the current legislature is dissolved.

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, and the question being put on the amendment, it was defeated.

8. The debate continuing on the motion, it was moved by Mr. Hart in amendment thereto:

That the motion be amended by removing all the words after “February 10th, 2016.”

The debate continuing on the motion and the amendment, and the question being put on the amendment, it was agreed to.

9. The question being put on the motion as amended, it was agreed to.

10. It was moved by Mr. Brkich:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

11. The committee adjourned at 12:31 p.m. to the call of the Chair.