

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

MINUTE NO. 9
1:06 p.m. — Legislative Chamber

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Marv Friesen, Todd Goudy, Delbert Kirsch, Hugh Nerlien, Dana Skoropad, Aleana Young, and Colleen Young.

Provincial Auditor's Office

Tara Clemett, Provincial Auditor
Kim Lowe, Principal Auditor

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Assistant Provincial Comptroller

2. The following documents were tabled:

Ministry of Advanced Education – report of public losses July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021
(PAC 37-29)

Ministry of Health: report of public losses July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021
(PAC 38-29)

Ministry of Finance: report of public losses July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021
(PAC 39-29)

Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan: Second quarter financial forecast for the six months ending
September 30, 2021
(PAC 40-29)

Ministry of Education: report of public losses September 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021
(PAC 41-29)

3. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 7, Health.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

4. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Health: Status Update, dated January 11, 2022
(PAC 42-29)

5. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2018 report volume 2, chapter 7, Health.

6. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 28, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 102 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health assess the cost and benefit to patient safety of recording hospital-dispensed opioids in the provincial drug IT system.

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 107 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health participate in a regular review of the list of opioid drugs associated with misuse and addiction that it wants monitored.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 108 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health establish a risk-based approach to identify concerns in opioid dispensing in Saskatchewan pharmacies.

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 110 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to consider requiring its members to review patient medication profiles prior to prescribing opioids.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 111 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health determine whether the Prescription Review Program is helping reduce the misuse of prescribed opioids in Saskatchewan.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 112 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health give those responsible for monitoring inappropriate opioid prescribing access to necessary patient information.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 115 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 7, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing:

We recommend the Ministry of Health give those responsible for monitoring inappropriate opioid prescribing a functional IT system useful in identifying potentially inappropriate prescribing practices and opioid misuse.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

14. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 28, Health — Monitoring Opioid Prescribing and Dispensing.
15. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 26, Health — Co-ordinating the Use of Lean; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 27, Health — Co-ordinating the Use of Lean.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

16. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 26, Health — Co-ordinating the Use of Lean.
17. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 27, Health — Co-ordinating the Use of Lean.
18. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 27 Health — Providing Special Needs Equipment for Persons with Disabilities; and 2021 report volume 1, chapter 17, Health — Providing Special Needs Equipment for Persons with Disabilities.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

19. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 27 Health — Providing Special Needs Equipment for Persons with Disabilities.
20. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 17, Health — Providing Special Needs Equipment for Persons with Disabilities.

21. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 26, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 162 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health formalize the prioritization process for selecting heliports and landing zone locations for helicopter ambulance use.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health the recommendation.

23. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 165 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health, working with others involved in the co-ordination of transporting patients, develop terms of reference for the consultation committee responsible for overseeing patient transports using helicopter ambulance services.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

24. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 168 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health actively oversee air ambulance services (e.g., chair committee(s) responsible for helicopter ambulance services oversight).

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

25. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 169 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health periodically verify medical staff qualifications and training of those providing helicopter ambulance services.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

26. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 171 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health obtain written reasons where timeliness indicators for helicopter ambulance services are not met.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

27. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 172 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health routinely receive and analyze key information about the quality of patient care provided during helicopter ambulance services.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

28. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 174 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health receive periodic and detailed reporting on the number and reasons for cancelling or declining requests for helicopter ambulance services.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

29. The committee concurred with recommendation 8 made at page 175 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 22, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Health receive periodic reports on the maintenance of helicopters used to provide air ambulance services.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health has complied with the recommendation.

30. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 26, Health — Co-ordinating the Appropriate Provision of Helicopter Ambulance Services.

31. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 36, Health — Meat Safety.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister

Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister

Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

32. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 36, Health — Meat Safety.

33. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 17, Health — Detecting Inappropriate Physician Payments.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

34. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 17, Health — Detecting Inappropriate Physician Payments.
35. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 32, Health — Preventing Diabetes-Related Health Complications.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

36. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 32, Health — Preventing Diabetes-Related Health Complications.
37. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety.

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

Witnesses

Denise Macza, Associate Deputy Minister
Billie-Jo Morrissette, Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Wyatt, Assistant Deputy Minister

38. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 58 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health reassess the types of adverse health events it requires healthcare organizations to report as critical incidents.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

39. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 59 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health ask healthcare organizations to include root causes of the incident when reporting critical incidents.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

40. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 60 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health obtain missing critical incident information from reporting healthcare organizations.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

41. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 62 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health follow up when receipt of critical incidents reports are beyond established reporting deadlines.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

42. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 64 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health analyze the nature and types of critical incidents reported as compared to other health data sources.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

43. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 67 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health (or responsible healthcare organization) apply consistent criteria to assess whether planned corrective actions effectively address causes of critical incidents.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

44. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 68 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health monitor the status of implementation of corrective actions set out in critical incident reports.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

45. The committee concurred with recommendation 8 made at page 71 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health (and/or responsible healthcare organization) utilize criteria to determine when to issue patient safety alerts.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

46. The committee concurred with recommendation 9 made at page 73 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health analyze critical incidents for systemic issues.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

47. The committee concurred with recommendation 10 made at page 74 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 6, Health — Using Critical Incident Reporting to Improve Patient Safety:

We recommend the Ministry of Health work with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to monitor the effectiveness of patient safety alerts.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

48. It was moved by Mr. Nerlien:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

49. The committee adjourned at 5:13 p.m. until Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Rob Park
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Chair