

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**Tuesday, October 19, 2022**

**MINUTE NO. 16**

**10:00 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)**

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Todd Goudy, Joe Hargrave, Daryl Harrison, Delbert Kirsch, Jim Lemaigre, Hugh Nerlien, and Aleana Young.

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Tara Clemett, Provincial Auditor  
Jason Shaw, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Trevor St. John, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Jason Wandy, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Kim Lowe, Principal Auditor

**Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Jane Borland, Acting Assistant Provincial Comptroller  
Jen Clark, Director, Finance and Policy

2. The following documents were tabled:

Public Service Commission: Response to questions asked at the September 6, 2022 meeting  
(PAC 73-29)

Ministry of Education: Report of public losses, June 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022  
(PAC 74-29)

3. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 18, Water Security Agency; 2020 report volume 2, chapter 16, Water Security Agency; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 13, Water Security Agency.

The following Water Security Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Shawn Jaques, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
David Cooper, Vice President, Agriculture Services and Economic Development  
John Fahlman, Vice President, Infrastructure  
Mark Kleefeld, Vice President, Finance  
Leah Clark, Executive Director, Agricultural Water Management  
Lindsay Freistadt, Executive Director, Compliance Promotion  
Jeff Patterson, Executive Director, Standards and Approvals  
Corie White, Executive Director, Science and Knowledge

4. The following document was tabled:

Water Security Agency: Status update, dated October 19, 2022  
(PAC 75-29)

5. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 18, Water Security Agency; 2020 report volume 2, chapter 16, Water Security Agency; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 13, Water Security Agency.
6. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use.

The following Water Security Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Shawn Jaques, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
David Cooper, Vice President, Agriculture Services and Economic Development  
John Fahlman, Vice President, Infrastructure  
Mark Kleefeld, Vice President, Finance  
Leah Clark, Executive Director, Agricultural Water Management  
Lindsay Freistadt, Executive Director, Compliance Promotion  
Jeff Patterson, Executive Director, Standards and Approvals  
Corie White, Executive Director, Science and Knowledge

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 180 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency update completion date targets for relevant key actions originally set in its *25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan* pertaining to regulating water use to ensure water sustainability.

The committee noted that the Water Security Agency has complied with the recommendation.

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 186 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency develop written procedures for processing and approving applications for water use.

The committee noted that the Water Security Agency is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 189 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency clearly document its consideration of key components used to predict water availability of a proposed water source before related surface water-use licences are approved.

The committee noted that the Water Security Agency has complied with the recommendation.

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 192 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency implement written procedures about estimating and recording licensed water use.

The committee noted that the Water Security Agency is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 193 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency actively monitor whether water-use licensees comply with key water-use licence conditions.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 194 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency develop written enforcement procedures for staff to follow when the Agency identifies licensed water users not complying with water-use licences.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 195 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 13, Water Security Agency — Regulating Water Use:

We recommend the Water Security Agency periodically give senior management written reports on non-compliance with key water-use licence conditions, and related enforcement strategies and actions.

14. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 31, Water Security Agency — Regulating Drainage.

The following Water Security Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Shawn Jaques, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
David Cooper, Vice President, Agriculture Services and Economic Development  
John Fahlman, Vice President, Infrastructure  
Mark Kleefeld, Vice President, Finance  
Leah Clark, Executive Director, Agricultural Water Management  
Lindsay Freistadt, Executive Director, Compliance Promotion  
Jeff Patterson, Executive Director, Standards and Approvals  
Corie White, Executive Director, Science and Knowledge

15. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial 2021 report volume 1, chapter 31, Water Security Agency — Regulating Drainage.

16. The committee recessed from 11:39 a.m. until 11:41 a.m.

17. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks.

The following Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Jennifer Johnson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Parks  
Byron Davis, Executive Director, Park Planning and Facility Management  
Pam Herbert, Executive Director, Strategic and Corporate Services

18. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 76-29)

19. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 184 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport document key operational decisions and processes for its drinking-water systems regulated by the Ministry of Health or itself.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport has complied with the recommendation.

20. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 185 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport assign clear responsibility for preparing and maintaining written procedures necessary to operate its drinking-water systems.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

21. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 188 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport document routine maintenance expectations for its drinking-water systems.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 188 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport complete routine maintenance on its drinking-water systems consistent with documented routine maintenance expectations.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

23. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 189 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport routinely review key drinking-water system operational records including daily activity tracking sheets and operator logbooks.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport has complied with the recommendation.

24. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 190 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport document evidence of its review of water quality test results.

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

25. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 191 of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 23, Parks, Culture and Sport — Providing Safe Drinking Water in Provincial Parks:

We recommend the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport update its agreements with municipalities supplying drinking water to provincial parks to set needed water quantity and require municipalities to promptly advise the Ministry of breaches in provincial drinking-water standards

The committee noted that the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport has complied with the recommendation.

26. The committee recessed from 12:01 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

27. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 30, Finance — Internal Audit in Ministries.

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

Witnesses

Max Hendricks, Deputy Minister

Chris Bayda, Acting Provincial Comptroller

Nancy Perras, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue

Jeremy Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Employees Benefits Agency

Melanie DeMarni, Executive Director, Corporate Services

Hera Kang, Director, Corporate Services

28. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Finance: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 77-29)

29. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 30, Finance — Internal Audit in Ministries.
30. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 24, Finance — Implementing the Revenue Administration Modernization Project.

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

Witnesses

Max Hendricks, Deputy Minister  
Chris Bayda, Acting Provincial Comptroller  
Nancy Perras, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue  
Jeremy Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Employees Benefits Agency  
Melanie DeMarni, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Hera Kang, Director, Corporate Services

31. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 24, Finance — Implementing the Revenue Administration Modernization Project.
32. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 31, Finance — Public Employees Benefit Agency: Effectively Informing Certain Pension Plan Members.

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

Witnesses

Max Hendricks, Deputy Minister  
Chris Bayda, Acting Provincial Comptroller  
Nancy Perras, Assistant Deputy Minister, Revenue  
Jeremy Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Employees Benefits Agency  
Melanie DeMarni, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Hera Kang, Director, Corporate Services

33. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 31, Finance — Public Employees Benefit Agency: Effectively Informing Certain Pension Plan Members.
34. The committee recessed from 1:12 p.m. until 1:18 p.m.
35. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 40, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Coordinating Provincial Emergency Preparedness.

The following Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Marlo Pritchard, President and Fire Commissioner  
Teresa Florizone, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Steve Roberts, Vice President, Operations  
Luanne Synk, Director, Policy and Legislation  
Tamie Vandeven, Director, Communications Programs

36. The following document was tabled:

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 78-29)

37. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 40, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Coordinating Provincial Emergency Preparedness.

38. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 35, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Alerting the Public about Imminently Dangerous Events.

The following Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Marlo Pritchard, President and Fire Commissioner  
Teresa Florizone, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Roberts, Vice President, Operations  
Luanne Synk, Director, Policy and Legislation  
Tamie Vandeven, Director, Communications Programs

39. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 35, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Alerting the Public about Imminently Dangerous Events.

40. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 32, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Detecting Wildfires; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Detecting Wildfires.

The following Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Marlo Pritchard, President and Fire Commissioner  
Teresa Florizone, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Roberts, Vice President, Operations  
Luanne Synk, Director, Policy and Legislation  
Tamie Vandeven, Director, Communications Programs

41. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 32, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Detecting Wildfires; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency — Detecting Wildfires.

42. The committee recessed from 2:02 p.m. until 2:07 p.m.

43. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 41, Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan — Inspecting Elevating Devices; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 38, Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan — Inspecting Elevating Devices.

The following Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Bill Scott, Chief Executive Officer

Chris Selinger, Chief Inspector of Boiler and Pressure Vessels, Elevators and Amusement Rides

44. The following document was tabled:

Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 79-29)

45. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 41, Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan — Inspecting Elevating Devices; and 2021 report volume 2, chapter 38, Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan — Inspecting Elevating Devices.

46. The committee recessed from 2:21 p.m. until 2:53 p.m.

47. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 44, SaskBuilds Corporation — Learning from Use of P3s.

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

Witnesses

Kyle Toffan, Deputy Minister

Jim Olson, Chief Financial Officer

Jason Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Information Technology

Karen Cossitt, Executive Director, Project Planning and Delivery

Ali Deheshi, Security Analyst, Information Technology

48. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 80-29)

49. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 2, chapter 44, SaskBuilds Corporation — Learning from Use of P3s.

50. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 26, SaskBuilds and Procurement — Securing the Data Centre.

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

Witnesses

Kyle Toffan, Deputy Minister

Jim Olson, Chief Financial Officer

Jason Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Information Technology

Karen Cossitt, Executive Director, Project Planning and Delivery



Ali Deheshi, Security Analyst, Information Technology

51. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 26, SaskBuilds and Procurement — Securing the Data Centre.
52. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 27, SaskBuilds and Procurement — Web Application Security Requirements.

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

Witnesses

Kyle Toffan, Deputy Minister

Jim Olson, Chief Financial Officer

Jason Wall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Information Technology

Karen Cossitt, Executive Director, Project Planning and Delivery

Ali Deheshi, Security Analyst, Information Technology

53. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 27, SaskBuilds and Procurement — Web Application Security Requirements.
54. The committee recessed from 3:18 p.m. until 3:25 p.m.
55. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 34, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission — Enabling Apprentices to Achieve Certification; and 2020 report volume 2, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission — Enabling Apprentices to Achieve Certification.

The following Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Jeff Ritter, Chief Executive Officer

Shaun Augustin, Chief Financial Officer

56. The following document was tabled:

Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission: Status update, dated October 19, 2022

(PAC 81-29)

57. The committee concluded consideration the Provincial Auditor's 2019 report volume 1, chapter 34, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission — Enabling Apprentices to Achieve Certification; and 2020 report volume 2, chapter 36, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission — Enabling Apprentices to Achieve Certification.

58. It was moved by Mr. Hargrave:

That status updates be provided to the committee three business days prior to a PAC meeting; and further,

That the PAC Procedures Manual be updated to reflect this change in process.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

59. It was moved by Mr. Nerlien:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

60. The committee adjourned at 3:37 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

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Rob Park  
Committee Clerk

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Trent Wotherspoon  
Chair