

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Monday, February 27, 2023

MINUTE NO. 19

12:58 p.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Muhammad Fiaz,* Marv Friesen,* Todd Goudy, Gary Grewal,* Daryl Harrison, Hugh Nerlien, and Aleana Young.

Substituting Members

Muhammad Fiaz for Joe Hargrave

Marv Friesen for Delbert Kirsch

Gary Grewal for Jim Lemaigre

Provincial Auditor's Office

Tara Clemett, Provincial Auditor

Jason Wandy, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Shahfina Ridi, Auditor

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Jane Borland, Acting Assistant Provincial Comptroller

Tamara Stocker, Acting Director, Financial Management

2. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities.

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

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister

Tobie Eberhardt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs

Devon Exner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs

Grant Hilsenteger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services

Louise Michaud, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Programs and Housing

Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Housing

Erin Kiefer, Executive Director, Finance

Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Child and Family Programs

Bob Martinook, Executive Director, Community Living Service Delivery

Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations

Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Program and Service Design

Charlotte Schriml, Executive Director, Income Assistance Redesign

Sterling Snider, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Disability Programs

Mitch Tremblay, Executive Director, Community Services

Naomi Shanks, Acting Executive Director, Program Support

3. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Social Services: Status update, dated February 27, 2023

(PAC 94-29)

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 151 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services monitor resolution of deficiencies stated in conditional licences for group and approved private service homes within a reasonable timeframe.

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

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 153 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services update home inspection checklists to cover key risk areas at group and approved private service homes.

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

6. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 154 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services annually inspect each group home to assess if it meets the minimum program standards requirements.

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

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 155 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services use a central system to track key information about group and approved private service homes.

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

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 155 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services verify completion of periodic criminal record checks for people caring for adults with intellectual disabilities living in group and approved private service homes.

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

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 158 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services periodically assess the quality and fulfillment of person-centred plans for adults with intellectual disabilities living in group and approved private service homes.

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

10. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 158 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services have regular contact about the person-centred plans with adults with intellectual disabilities living in group and approved private service homes.

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

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 8 made at page 162 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services monitor for timely implementation of recommendations, set out in serious incident investigation reports, at group and approved private service homes.

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

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 9 made at page 163 of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 18, Social Services — Monitoring Quality of Care in Homes Supporting Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services analyze serious incidents related to adults with intellectual disabilities for systemic issues at each group and approved private service home.

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

13. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 26, Social Services — Monitoring Foster Families.

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

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister
Tobie Eberhardt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Devon Exner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Grant Hilsenteger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Louise Michaud, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Programs and Housing
Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Housing
Erin Kiefer, Executive Director, Finance
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Child and Family Programs
Bob Martinook, Executive Director, Community Living Service Delivery
Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Program and Service Design
Charlotte Schriml, Executive Director, Income Assistance Redesign
Sterling Snider, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Disability Programs
Mitch Tremblay, Executive Director, Community Services
Naomi Shanks, Acting Executive Director, Program Support

14. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 26, Social Services — Monitoring Foster Families.
15. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 24, Social Services — Minimizing Employee Absenteeism.

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

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister
Tobie Eberhardt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Devon Exner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Grant Hilsenteger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Louise Michaud, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Programs and Housing
Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Housing
Erin Kiefer, Executive Director, Finance
Joel Kilbride, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Child and Family Programs
Bob Martinook, Executive Director, Community Living Service Delivery
Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations
Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, Income Assistance Program and Service Design
Charlotte Schriml, Executive Director, Income Assistance Redesign
Sterling Snider, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Disability Programs
Mitch Tremblay, Executive Director, Community Services
Naomi Shanks, Acting Executive Director, Program Support

16. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 24, Social Services — Minimizing Employee Absenteeism.
17. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 6, Social Services.

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

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister
Tobie Eberhardt, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Programs
Devon Exner, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance Programs
Grant Hilsenteger, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Corporate Services
Louise Michaud, Assistant Deputy Minister, Disability Programs and Housing
Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Housing
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Sterling Snider, Executive Director, Program and Service Design, Disability Programs
Mitch Tremblay, Executive Director, Community Services
Naomi Shanks, Acting Executive Director, Program Support

18. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 44 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 6, Social Services:

We recommend the Ministry of Social Services reinforce with staff the requirements for paying shelter benefits under the Saskatchewan Income Support Program.

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

19. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 30, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Maintaining Housing Units.

The following Saskatchewan Housing Corporation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister
Louise Michaud, President
Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations
Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design

20. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 30, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Maintaining Housing Units.

21. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 24, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Adequate Social Housing to Eligible Clients.

The following Saskatchewan Housing Corporation officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Kimberly Kratzig, Deputy Minister

Louise Michaud, President

Roger Parenteau, Executive Director, Housing Operations

Sean Burnett, Executive Director, Program and Service Design

22. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 24, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation — Providing Adequate Social Housing to Eligible Clients.

23. It was moved by Mr. Grewal:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

24. The committee adjourned at 3:39 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Anne Drake
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Chair