

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Thursday, December 14, 2023

MINUTE NO. 23

9:02 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Muhammad Fiaz,* Todd Goudy, Daryl Harrison, Travis Keisig,* Lisa Lambert, Jim Lemaigre, Hugh Nerlien, and Aleana Young.

Substituting Members

Muhammad Fiaz for Delbert Kirsch (9:11 a.m. – 11:36 a.m.)

Muhammad Fiaz for Lisa Lambert (1:02 p.m. – 1:14 p.m.)

Travis Keisig for Jim Lemaigre

Other Members

Muhammad Fiaz

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, Senior Principal

Michelle Lindenbach, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Chris Bayda, Provincial Comptroller

Jane Borland, Assistant Provincial Comptroller

2. It was moved by Ms. Young:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, pursuant to subsection 16(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, requests that the Provincial Auditor perform a special assignment investigation to examine the Ministry of Social Services' policies, expenditures, and procedures regarding the management of public funds through the payment of hotel fees for clients and those in the care of the Ministry.

A debate arising and the question being put, it was defeated on the following recorded division:

Yeas — 2

Wotherspoon, Young

Nays — 5

Goudy, Harrison, Keisig, Lambert, Nerlien

3. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 7, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers; and 2022 report volume 1, chapter 12, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Motor Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers.

The following Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Roger Sobotkiewicz, Chief Executive Officer and Chair
Denny Huyghebaert, Executive Director, Consumer Protection

4. The following document was tabled:

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority: Status update, dated December 14, 2023

(PAC 112-29)

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 76 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 7, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers:

We recommend the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority select motor vehicle dealers for inspection based on a formal analysis of key risks for non-compliance.

The committee noted that Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

6. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 79 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 7, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers:

We recommend the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority update and implement a policy and procedures manual for inspections of motor vehicle dealers.

The committee noted that Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority has complied with the recommendation.

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 80 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 7, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers:

We recommend the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority formally monitor the completion of motor vehicle dealer inspections compared to inspection plans.

The committee noted that Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority has complied with the recommendation.

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 81 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 7, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers:

We recommend the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority formally analyze the results of its enforcement activities for motor vehicle dealers to support a risk-informed enforcement approach.

The committee noted that Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

9. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 12, Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority — Regulating Motor Vehicle Dealers to Protect Consumers.
10. The committee recessed from 9:37 a.m. until 9:49 a.m.
11. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 3, 3sHealth — Managing Disability Claims.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister
Greg Gettle, Assistant Deputy Minister
Norman O'Neill, Assistant Deputy Minister
Diana Fink, Director, Operations and Internal Audit
Victoria Zhang, Manager, Internal Audit

3sHealth

Mark Anderson, Chief Executive Officer
Alana Shearer-Kleefeld, Vice-President, Employee Benefits
Jade Lea-Wilson, Director, Claims Service

12. The following document was tabled:

3sHealth: Status update, dated December 14, 2023

(PAC 113-29)

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 30 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 3, 3sHealth — Managing Disability Claims:

We recommend Health Shared Services Saskatchewan send completed disability benefit claim applications to adjudicators on time.

The committee noted that 3sHealth has made progress towards complying with the recommendation.

14. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 37 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 3, 3sHealth — Managing Disability Claims:

We recommend Health Shared Services Saskatchewan follow its established timelines to complete appeal reviews on disability claims and document reasons for significant delays.

The committee noted that 3sHealth has made progress towards complying with the recommendation.

15. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 38 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 3, 3sHealth — Managing Disability Claims:

We recommend Health Shared Services Saskatchewan centrally track and analyze complaints from plan members regarding disability benefit claims.

The committee noted that 3sHealth has complied with the recommendation.

16. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 42 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 3, 3sHealth — Managing Disability Claims:

We recommend Health Shared Services Saskatchewan enhance its written reports to senior management and the Board of Trustees about its disability claims management processes.

The committee noted that 3sHealth has complied with the recommendation.

17. The committee recessed from 11:01 a.m. until 11:06 a.m.

18. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services; and 2023 report volume 1, chapter 21, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services.

The following Saskatchewan Research Council officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ryan Hill, Chief Operating Officer
Jocelyn Allard, Associate Vice-President, Finance

19. The following document was tabled:

Saskatchewan Research Council: Status update, dated December 14, 2023

(PAC 114-29)

20. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 124 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Research Council establish expectations about when and how to communicate results of tenders for purchases with suppliers.

The committee noted that Saskatchewan Research Council has complied with the recommendation.

21. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 125 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Research Council establish guidance on setting the amount of time to allow suppliers to respond to tenders.

The committee noted that Saskatchewan Research Council has complied with the recommendation.

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 126 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Research Council monitor compliance with its policy for individual transaction limits when using purchasing cards.

The committee noted that Saskatchewan Research Council has complied with the recommendation.

23. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 127 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Research Council monitor the continued appropriateness of individual transaction limits on purchasing cards when approving temporary changes to dollar value limits for special circumstances.

The committee noted that Saskatchewan Research Council has complied with the recommendation.

24. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 133 of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 1, chapter 10, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend that the Saskatchewan Research Council establish a formal process to assess and track supplier performance.

The committee noted that Saskatchewan Research Council has complied with the recommendation.

25. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 21, Saskatchewan Research Council — Purchasing Goods and Services.

26. The committee recessed from 11:36 a.m. until 1:02 p.m.

27. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 4, Executive Council; 2021 report volume 2, chapter 5, Executive Council; and 2022 report volume 2, chapter 2, Executive Council.

The following Executive Council officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Raynelle Wilson, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary
Kristen Fry, Executive Director, Corporate Services

28. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2020 report volume 2, chapter 4, Executive Council; 2021 report volume 2, chapter 5, Executive Council; and 2022 report volume 2, chapter 2, Executive Council.

29. The committee recessed from 1:16 p.m. until 1:42 p.m.

30. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 19, Immigration and Career Training — Coordinating English-Language Programs.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training official appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister

31. The following documents were tabled:

Executive Council: Status update, dated December 14, 2023

(PAC 115-29)

Ministry of Immigration and Career Training: Status update, dated December 14, 2023

(PAC 116-29)

32. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 1, chapter 19, Immigration and Career Training — Coordinating English-Language Programs.

33. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 29, Immigration and Career Training — Outcomes-Based Contracts.

The following Ministry of Immigration and Career Training official appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Christa Ross, Assistant Deputy Minister

34. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2021 report volume 2, chapter 29, Immigration and Career Training — Outcomes-Based Contracts.

35. It was moved by Mr. Nerlien:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

36. The committee adjourned at 2:19 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Humble-Selinger
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Chair