

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

**MINUTE NO. 25**

**9:33 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)**

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the chair and members Todd Goudy, Daryl Harrison, Lisa Lambert, Jim Lemaigre, Blaine McLeod,\* Hugh Nerlien, and Aleana Young.

**Substituting Members**

Blaine McLeod for Delbert Kirsch

**Provincial Auditor's Office**

Tara Clemett, Provincial Auditor  
Victor Schwab, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Michelle Lindenbach, Principal

**Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Chris Bayda, Provincial Comptroller  
Donica Smart, Director, Financial Management

2. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students.

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

Witnesses

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Tim Caleval, Executive Director  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Edith Nay, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

3. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Education: Status update, dated February 7, 2024

(PAC 130-29)

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 35 of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students:

We recommend the Ministry of Education expand its measures and targets related to its Inspiring Success Framework for Indigenous students beyond graduation rates.

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

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 40 of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students:

We recommend the Ministry of Education determine action plans to address initiatives not achieving expected results related to Indigenous student success.

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

6. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 42 of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students:

We recommend the Ministry of Education follow its established processes for reviewing and storing Invitational Shared Services Initiative year-end reports about Indigenous student partnerships.

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

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 43 of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students:

We recommend the Ministry of Education prepare and share a summarized report for the Invitational Shared Services Initiative based on year-end reporting received from Indigenous partnerships.

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

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 45 of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 3, Education — Improving Educational Outcomes for Indigenous Students:

We recommend the Ministry of Education work with school divisions to obtain enhanced annual reporting on Indigenous student success once measures and targets are expanded in relation to the Inspiring Success Framework for Indigenous students.

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

9. The committee recessed from 11:07 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

10. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Education

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Tim Caleval, Executive Director  
Maria Chow, Executive Director

Edith Nay, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre  
Darren Gasper, Chief Executive Officer  
Jessica Foster, Executive Director  
Sara Hawryluk, Executive Director  
Ryan Johnson, Principal  
Stephani Ali, Director

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 132 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 implement a course development policy, including the frequency of course reviews for distance education.

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

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 135 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 monitor the timeliness of teachers marking distance education coursework in accordance with its policy.

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

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 136 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 consistently apply its student inactivity policy to engage distance education students falling behind in courses.

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

14. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 136 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 assess the need for ongoing focused professional development for teachers working in the distance education environment.

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

15. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 137 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 establish target course completion rates for its students who solely attend the Distance Learning Centre.

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

16. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 139 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 analyze key information related to supporting students' completion of Grades 10 to 12 distance education courses to identify potential issues and take action.

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

17. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 139 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 8, Sun West School Division No. 207 — Supporting Students' Completion of Grades 10 to 12 Distance Education Courses:

We recommend Sun West School Division No. 207 regularly provide complete written reports and analysis to its Board about supporting students' completion of Grades 10 to 12 distance education courses.

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

18. The committee recessed from 12:08 p.m. until 1:04 p.m.

19. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 9, Education — Capital Asset Planning for Schools.

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

Witnesses

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

20. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 9, Education — Capital Asset Planning for Schools.

21. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 1, School Divisions; and 2023 report volume 1, chapter 2, School Divisions.

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

Witnesses

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 17 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 1, School Divisions:

We recommend the Ministry of Education work with impacted school divisions to establish a process to monitor the key financial IT system and the IT service provider.

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

23. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 17 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 1, School Divisions:

We recommend Northern Lights School Division No. 113 appropriately restrict user access to its financial system.

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

24. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 18 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 1, School Divisions:

We recommend Prairie South School Division No. 210 appropriately restrict user access to its financial system.

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

25. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 18 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 1, School Divisions:

We recommend Prairie South School Division No. 210 document approval for granting new user access to its financial system.

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

26. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 2, School Divisions.

27. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 23, Saskatoon School Division No. 13 — Supporting Students with Intensive Needs.

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

Witnesses

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

28. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 23, Saskatoon School Division No. 13 — Supporting Students with Intensive Needs.

29. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 23, Saskatoon School Division No. 13 — Kindergarten Readiness to Learn.

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

Witnesses

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

30. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 23, Saskatoon School Division No. 13 — Kindergarten Readiness to Learn.
31. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 27, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20 — Adapting Technology for Learning in Elementary Schools.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Education  
Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20  
Joel Lloyd, Chief Financial Officer

32. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 27, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20 — Adapting Technology for Learning in Elementary Schools.
33. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 25, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20 — Promoting Good Student Health.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Education  
Clint Repski, Deputy Minister  
Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Maria Chow, Executive Director  
Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services  
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20  
Joel Lloyd, Chief Financial Officer

34. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 25, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 20 — Promoting Good Student Health.
35. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 16, Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 — English as an Additional Language Programming.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Education

Clint Repski, Deputy Minister

Sammi Haque, Assistant Deputy Minister

Jason Pirlot, Assistant Deputy Minister

Maria Chow, Executive Director

Rhiannon Shaw, Executive Director, Corporate Services

Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81

Stacey Gherasim, Superintendent, Education Services

36. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 16, Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 — English as an Additional Language Programming.
37. It was moved by Ms. Lambert:  
  
That this committee do now adjourn.  
  
The question being put, it was agreed to.
38. The committee adjourned at 2:48 p.m. until Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

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Danielle Humble-Selinger  
Committee Clerk

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Trent Wotherspoon  
Chair