

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

MINUTE NO. 27

9:01 a.m. — māmawapiwin náyati room (Room 8)

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

Substituting Members

Muhammad Fiaz for Jim Lemaigre (9:01 a.m. – 3:29 p.m.)

Provincial Auditor’s Office

Tara Clemett, Provincial Auditor
Jason Wandy, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Michelle Lindenbach, Principal

Provincial Comptroller’s Office

Jane Borland, Assistant Provincial Comptroller
Tamara Stocker, Director

2. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor’s 2022 report volume 2, chapter 1, eHealth Saskatchewan; and 2023 report volume 2, chapter 1, eHealth Saskatchewan.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health
Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister
eHealth Saskatchewan
Davin Church, Chief Executive Officer
John Billington, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
Lillian Ly, Executive Director, Programs and Chief Digital Information Officer

3. The following document was tabled:

Ministry of Health: Status update, dated February 27, 2024

(PAC 136-29)

4. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor’s 2022 report volume 2, chapter 1, eHealth Saskatchewan; and 2023 report volume 2, chapter 1, eHealth Saskatchewan.
5. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor’s 2022 report volume 2, chapter 15, eHealth Saskatchewan — Securing Portable Computing Devices.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health
Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister

eHealth Saskatchewan

Davin Church, Chief Executive Officer

John Billington, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Lillian Ly, Executive Director, Programs and Chief Digital Information Officer

6. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 15, eHealth Saskatchewan — Securing Portable Computing Devices.
7. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister

Greg Gettle, Assistant Deputy Minister

Brad Havervold, Assistant Deputy Minister

Ingrid Kirby, Assistant Deputy Minister

Norman O'Neill, Assistant Deputy Minister

Diana Fink, Director, Operations and Internal Audit

Victoria Zhang, Manager, Internal Audit

Saskatchewan Health Authority

Kelly Thompson, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

John Ash, Vice President, Integrated Saskatoon Health

Michelle Mula, Vice President, Quality, Safety and Chief Information Officer

Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health

Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services

Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer

Mike Northcott, Chief Human Resources Officer

8. The committee recessed from 11:59 a.m. until 12:58 p.m.
9. The committee resumed consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 75 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority follow its single and sole source requirements when using credit cards to purchase goods and services over \$5,000.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

11. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 76 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority follow its procurement policy (e.g., document rationale) when using single or sole source purchasing methods.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 77 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority authorize the initiation of purchases consistent with its written delegation of signing authority.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 79 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority consistently evaluate potential suppliers when tendering for the purchase of goods and services.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

14. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 79 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority obtain conflict of interest declarations from tender subcommittee members, as required by its conflict of interest policy.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

15. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 81 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority consistently communicate supplier award decisions for public tenders as required by its procurement policy.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

16. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 82 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority authorize contracts for goods and services in accordance with its delegation of authority.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

17. The committee concurred with recommendation 8 made at page 84 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 5, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Purchasing Goods and Services:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority establish a formal process to assess and track supplier performance.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

18. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

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

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John Ash, Vice President, Integrated Saskatoon Health
Michelle Mula, Vice President, Quality, Safety and Chief Information Officer
Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health
Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services
Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer
Mike Northcott, Chief Human Resources Officer

19. The committee concurred with recommendation 1 made at page 142 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority determine in which facility locations across the province it expects to have the most significant shortages of hard-to-recruit positions.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

20. The committee concurred with recommendation 2 made at page 147 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority implement targeted plans to address recruitment and retention for specific hard-to-recruit positions where it expects to have significant gaps.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

21. The committee concurred with recommendation 3 made at page 148 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority analyze whether clinical placements for students are a successful recruitment strategy for hard-to-recruit positions.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 4 made at page 151 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority periodically determine whether post-secondary training seats purchased out of province are successful at addressing vacancies for hard-to-recruit positions.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

23. The committee concurred with recommendation 5 made at page 154 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority implement a First Nations and Métis recruitment and retention plan to help fill hard-to-recruit position.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

24. The committee concurred with recommendation 6 made at page 154 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority centralize its analysis of staff exit surveys to inform retention strategies for hard-to-recruit positions.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

25. The committee concurred with recommendation 7 made at page 158 of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 2, chapter 12, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Filling Hard-to-Recruit Healthcare Positions:

We recommend the Saskatchewan Health Authority establish further measures to evaluate the success of its recruitment and retention activities for hard-to-recruit positions.

The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

26. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 18, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Delivering Accessible and Responsive Ground Ambulance Services in Southwest Saskatchewan.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

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

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Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health
Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services
Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer
Mike Northcott, Chief Human Resources Officer

27. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 18, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Delivering Accessible and Responsive Ground Ambulance Services in Southwest Saskatchewan.
28. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 20, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Medication Management in Long-Term Care Facilities in Kindersley and Surrounding Area.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister
Greg Gettle, Assistant Deputy Minister
Brad Havervold, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ingrid Kirby, Assistant Deputy Minister
Norman O'Neill, Assistant Deputy Minister
Diana Fink, Director, Operations and Internal Audit
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Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health
Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services
Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer
Mike Northcott, Chief Human Resources Officer

29. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 20, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Medication Management in Long-Term Care Facilities in Kindersley and Surrounding Area.
30. The committee recessed from 3:10 p.m. until 3:19 p.m.
31. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 20, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Treating Patients at Risk of Suicide in Northwest Saskatchewan.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister
Greg Gettle, Assistant Deputy Minister
Brad Havervold, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ingrid Kirby, Assistant Deputy Minister
Norman O'Neill, Assistant Deputy Minister
Diana Fink, Director, Operations and Internal Audit
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Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health
Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services
Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer
Mike Northcott, Chief Human Resources Officer

32. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2023 report volume 1, chapter 20, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Treating Patients at Risk of Suicide in Northwest Saskatchewan.
33. The committee recessed from 4:42 p.m. until 4:44 p.m.
34. The committee considered the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 19, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Efficient Use of MRIs in Regina.

The following officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of Health

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister
Greg Gettle, Assistant Deputy Minister
Brad Havervold, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ingrid Kirby, Assistant Deputy Minister
Norman O'Neill, Assistant Deputy Minister
Diana Fink, Director, Operations and Internal Audit
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Bryan Witt, Vice President, Provincial Clinical and Support Services
Derek Miller, Chief Operating Officer
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35. The committee concluded consideration of the Provincial Auditor's 2022 report volume 1, chapter 19, Saskatchewan Health Authority — Efficient Use of MRIs in Regina.

36. It was moved by Mr. Harrison:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

37. The committee adjourned at 5:28 p.m. to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Humble-Selinger
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Chair