

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

February 1, 1993

MINUTE NO. 13

1:00 p.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Swenson in the Chair and Members Anguish, Cline, Haverstock, Kujawa, Serby, Sonntag and Van Mulligen

Other Members Present: D. D'Autremont

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
John Hunt, Executive Director
Michael Heffernan, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Judy Ferguson, Director, Value for Money Auditing
Marg Ellard, Supervisor, Value for Money Auditing

Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Comptroller
Terry Paton, Director, Financial Management Branch

Other

Robert Cosman, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk

2. Mr. Anguish announced his resignation as Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.
3. It was moved by Mr. Cline:

That Mr. Van Mulligen be elected Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

4. The Provincial Auditor made an audio visual presentation entitled *How Effective are our Hospitals* on the subject of effectiveness reporting and accountability in management and Mr. Heffernan outlined some effectiveness attributes.

The Provincial Auditor tabled the following document:

PAC 65/2-22 – Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation, 1992, Reporting on Effectiveness: The Experience of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto

5. The Provincial Auditor explained the contents of the following three documents tabled:

PAC 62/2-22 – By the Provincial Auditor: Matters included in the 1991 Annual Report that have been corrected

PAC 63/2-22 – By the Provincial Auditor: Report on Vehicles for Legislative Secretaries

PAC 64/2-22 – By the Provincial Auditor: Report on Recommendations Arising for the 1991 Annual Report

6. The Committee reverted to the consideration of vehicles for Legislative Secretaries, a subject which the Committee had examined during its study of the Provincial Auditor's Special Report dated April 21, 1992.

The Committee agreed to the following recommendations on this subject:

We recommend the Government change The Legislative Secretary Expense Regulations to specify conditions for assigning vehicles.

We recommend the appropriate department be responsible for Secretaries' travelling expenses.

We recommend the Public Accounts identify all Secretaries' travelling expenses wherever they are incurred.

7. The Committee reverted to the consideration of the document entitled *Operating Principles/Practices*.

The Committee considered again the following paragraphs which were tabled at the Committee's meeting of May 26, 1992:

1. The Chair will explain to witnesses their legal position in regard to future action that might arise from their testimony.
2. Deputy ministers and senior officials are called before the Committee with respect to their administrative duties and implementation of activities.
3. Ministers should only be invited to the Committee when public servants cannot provide answers and/or when ministers have been personally involved with the decisions under examination.
4. Public servants should be treated fairly when they appear before the Committee, and they should be given the opportunity to explain their position; their resources and expertise should be utilized as fully and as effectively as possible.

8. It was moved by Mr. Van Mulligen:

That, at paragraph 3, the words "public servants cannot provide answers and/or when ministers have been personally involved with the decisions under examination" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"when the Committee decides it is appropriate to do so."

After debate, the question being put on the motion, it was agreed to.

After further debate, it was agreed that the document *Operating Principles/Practices* be adopted, as amended.

9. The Committee resumed consideration of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1991 and the 1990-91 Public Accounts of Saskatchewan.

10. The Committee proceeded to the consideration of **Chapter 16 — Department of Energy and Mines** of the Report of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 1991.

11. On motion of Mr. Sonntag, it was agreed:

That the Committee proceed *in camera*.

12. On motion of Mr. Serby, it was agreed:

That the Committee resume its proceedings in public.

13. **Saskatchewan Energy and Mines Witnesses**

Pat Youzwa, Deputy Minister
Ray Clayton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance and Administration Division
Don Stirling, Director, Mineral Revenue
Don Gray, Acting Director, Personnel and Administration
Merv Woods, Crown Solicitor, Department of Justice

14. The witnesses answered questions.
15. The Provincial Auditor answered questions.
16. The Committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m. until Tuesday, February 2, 1993 at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Crown Investment Corporation
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Saskatchewan Transportation Company
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Department of Finance and Crown Investment Corporation (Joint meeting on generic issues in the Provincial Auditor's Report, 1991)
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Department of Finance
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Department of Executive Council