

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 26, 1994

MINUTE NO. 30

9 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Martens in the Chair and Members Cline, Crofford, Koenker, Serby, Sonntag and Upshall

Other Member:

Ms. Anita Bergman

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor

Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor

John Hunt, Executive Director

Leslie Wendel, Audit Manager (for Chapter 10 consideration)

Rod Grabarczyk, Audit Manager (for Chapter 10 consideration)

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller

Terry Paton, Executive Director

2. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 7 (Annual Reports of Government Departments) of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993.
3. In consideration of paragraphs 7.05, the Committee agreed with the Provincial Auditor's recommendation.
4. The Committee resumed consideration of the Minister's response to the Sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee.
5. The Committee considered the Minister's response to paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 of its Sixth Report, especially as the matters relate to paragraph 7.06 of the Provincial Auditor's Report. The Committee noted that the Government had complied with the recommendation at paragraph 35; agreed with the recommendation at paragraph 36 and has asked the department to comply and; in respect to paragraph 37 (referral of reports to the Public Accounts Committee), the Committee noted that it understood that reports are available to assist Members as a matter of practice; therefore reports need not be formally referred to the Committee.
6. In reply to the Minister's response to paragraph 14, respecting the recommendation that the Public Accounts include the financial statements of all Government Corporations, the Committee noted it is satisfied that the information is available through the annual reports of Crown corporations.
7. The Committee noted that the Government will comply with the recommendation at paragraph 14, which asked that Treasury Board Crown corporations provide a list of persons who received money.
8. The Committee reviewed the Minister's response to paragraph 14 and the recommendation that the Government should consider providing a list of persons receiving money from Crown Investments Corporation's subsidiary Crown corporations. It was agreed to drop the matter from further consideration.
9. In respect to the Minister's response to paragraph 24 of the Sixth Report, the Committee noted that the Government is complying to the recommendations.

10. The Committee noted that the Minister agrees with paragraph 28 of the Sixth Report and the Government has begun implementing the recommendations.
11. The Committee noted the Minister's response to the recommendation at paragraph 33 of the Sixth Report.
12. In respect to the status of a Committee recommendation first made in 1975, as reported at page 1 of Appendix V of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993, the Committee agreed that the current information published in the Public Accounts meets its requirements, thus resolving the matter.
13. The Committee requested the Provincial Comptroller to bring forward to its attention any other outstanding matters contained in the said Appendix V of the Provincial Auditor's Report.
14. The Committee recessed at 10:52 a.m. until 1:25 p.m.
15. The Committee proceeded to the consideration of Chapter 10 (Department of Community Services) of the Report of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 1993.

Witnesses from Department of Community Services:

Bill Reader, Deputy Minister
 Ron Styles, Associate Deputy Minister, Housing Division
 Ken Alecxe, Associate Deputy Minister, Culture and Recreation Division
 Ron Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division
 Larry Chaykowski, Director, Finance and Administration
 Dean Clark, Director, Heritage Branch
 Bill Werry, Director, Recreation Branch
 June Rincker, Senior Multicultural Consultant, Arts and Multiculturalism

The Provincial Auditor and witnesses answered questions.

16. In consideration of paragraph 10.16, the Committee agreed with the recommendation and noted that the Arts Board had been made aware of the Financial Administration Act in respect to loans.
17. In consideration of paragraph 10.23, the Committee agreed with the recommendation and noted the Centre of the Arts has been made aware of the requirement to comply with the Financial Administration Act.
18. In consideration of paragraph 10.29, the Committee noted that the Centre of the Arts has taken steps to comply with the recommendation.
19. In consideration of paragraph 10.37, the Committee noted that regulations in respect to Trust Fund License fees have been amended to ensure license fees are authorized.
20. In consideration of paragraph 10.41, the Committee noted that regulations have been amended to ensure payments from the trust funds have adequate authority.
21. In consideration of paragraph 10.53, the Committee noted that the Water Appeal Board is taking steps to comply with the recommendation. The Committee agreed that the matter would be further pursued when the Department of Environment is called.
22. In consideration of paragraph 10.62, the Committee noted that the Western Development Museum has complied with the recommendation.
23. The witnesses responded to questions related to the Public Accounts for the year under review.

24. It was moved by Mr. Cline:

That the hearing on the Department of Community Services be concluded subject to recall, if necessary, for further questions.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

25. The Committee adjourned at 3:10 p.m. until Thursday, October 27, 1994 at 9 a.m.

Gregory Putz
Clerk of the Committee

Harold Martens, MLA
Chair