

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 27, 1994

MINUTE NO. 31

9 a.m. — Room 10

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

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
John Hunt, Executive Director
Rod Grabarczyk, Audit Manager
Judy Ferguson, Executive Director
Ken Taylor
Brian Drayton, Price Waterhouse

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller

2. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 9 (Department of Agriculture and Food) of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993.

Witnesses

Hartley Furtan, Deputy Minister
Ross Johnson, Manager, Budget and Operations, Administrative Services Branch
Ken Petruic, Manager, Financial Services, Administrative Services Branch
Harvey Johnson, Director, Communications Branch
Hal Cushon, Director, Policy and Program Development Branch
Norm Ballagh, General Manager, Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan (ACS)
Lorne Warnes, Executive Director, Administration, ACS
Keith Hayward, Senior Analyst, Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)
Laurie Hamers, Acting Comptroller, SCIC
Doug Winsor, Senior Research Economist, Policy and Program Development Branch (SCIC)
Roy White, Senior Marketing Officer and Secretary, Agri-Food Council, Marketing Development Branch
Dick Leigh, Manager, Lands Collection, Administrative Services Branch

Mr. Grabarczyk made a presentation and the witnesses answered questions put by Members.

3. In consideration of paragraphs 9.19, the Committee agreed to reiterate its recommendation of the previous year concerning Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan (ACS) and asked the departmental officials and Provincial Auditor to discuss the issue further.
4. In consideration of paragraph 9.23, the Committee noted that ACS has taken steps to comply with the recommendation.
5. In consideration of paragraph 9.34, concerning the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, the Committee noted that the Government has appointed councillors and the department indicated all future appointments will be timely made.
6. In consideration of paragraph 9.42, concerning the Tripartite Beef Administration Board appointments, the Committee noted the issue has been resolved.

7. In consideration of paragraph 9.48, concerning the Agricultural and Food Products Development and Marketing Council, the Committee noted that the Council, Department of Finance and the Provincial Auditor would be meeting to discuss the issue of annual reports and financial statements.
8. In consideration of paragraph 9.55, the Committee agreed with the Provincial Auditor's recommendation and noted that the Marketing Council is endeavouring to comply.
9. In consideration of paragraph 9.61, the Committee noted that the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission is complying with the recommendation.
10. The Committee addressed the Provincial Auditor's remarks concerning the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board.
11. The Committee recessed at 10:30 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.
12. In consideration of paragraphs 9.70 and 9.72, respecting the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, the Committee noted that the Board is working with the department to correct the problems raised by the Provincial Auditor.
13. The witnesses responded to questions related to the Public Accounts for the year under review.
14. The following document was tabled by the department:

PAC 100/22 - Department of Agriculture and Food: Payments to Matching Grants Projects, 1992/93.
15. The review of the accounts of the Department of Agriculture and Food for the year ended March 31, 1993 were adjourned.
16. The Committee recessed at 12 p.m. until 1:25 p.m.
17. The Committee received the Report of the Task Force on Roles, Responsibilities and Duties of Auditors. The Committee welcomed the following Task Force members and staff:

Dr. George Baxter, Chair
Bob Bundon, Representing Public Accounting Firms and Appointed Auditors
Brian Atkinson, representing the Office of the Provincial Auditor
Greg Mrazek, representing CIC subsidiary Crowns
Judy Ferguson, Secretary
Robert Cosman, Legal Counsel
18. The Provincial Auditor, Dr. Baxter and other Task Force members addressed the Committee. A discussion followed and the participants answered questions put by Members.
19. The Committee recessed at 2:30 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.
20. The Committee thanked the Task Force.
21. It was moved by Mr. Cline:

That we accept the Report of the Task Force on Roles, Responsibilities and Duties of Auditors, concur in its recommendations, and thank the members of the Task Force for their work.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

22. It was moved by Ms. Crofford: That this meeting do now adjourn. The question being put, the motion was agreed to.
23. The Committee adjourned at 2:57 p.m. until October 28, 1994 at 9 a.m.

Gregory Putz
Clerk of the Committee

Harold Martens, MLA
Chair