

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
February 28, 1995

MINUTE NO. 33
8:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Martens in the Chair and Members Cline, D'Autremont, Koenker, Serby, Sonntag and Stanger

Other Member

Ms. Anita Bergman

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
John Hunt, Executive Director
Mobashar Ahmad, Audit Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller
Terry Paton, Executive Director

2. The following documents received since the last meeting were tabled:

PAC 102/22 - Saskatchewan Municipal Government: Response to questions asked during review of the former Department of Community Services on October 26, 1994

PAC 103/22 - Agriculture and Food: Response to questions asked during review of the Department of Agriculture and Food on October 27, 1994

PAC 104/22 - Regina Health District: Response to questions asked during discussions on the Regina Health District on October 28, 1994

PAC 105/22 - Provincial Auditor: Report by the Provincial Auditor to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, January 31, 1995

3. Members of the Committee considered a regular meeting time for the current Session. It was agreed that while the Assembly remained sitting, the Committee would meet weekly on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. until 10 a.m., unless otherwise specified.
4. The Committee proceeded to review Chapter 12 (Department of Education) of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993.

Witnesses

Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister
Lily Stonehouse, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Employment
Mae Boa, Executive Director, Finance and Operations
Ernie Cychmistruk, Executive Director, Regional Services
John McLaughlin, Executive Director, Teachers' Superannuation Commission
Brady Salloum, Director, Student Financial Assistance
John Janzen, Financial Analyst, Student Financial Assistance
Jim Benning, CEO, Saskatchewan Communications Network

Mr. Ahmad of the Provincial Auditor's Office made a presentation and the witnesses answered questions put by Members.

5. The Committee considered issues raised by the Provincial Auditor with respect to capital grants to school divisions. It was agreed that consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendation at paragraph 12.13 should be postponed until the Committee received further information on the subject from the Department.
6. In consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendations at paragraph 12.17, the Committee noted that the Department is in the process of writing and testing a contingency plan to be used in case of loss or destruction of its computer information systems.
7. The Committee agreed to proceed directly with consideration of matters related to Student Loans, being paragraphs 12.103 through 12.139 of the Provincial Auditor's report.
8. The Committee agreed with the Provincial Auditor's recommendations at paragraphs 12.112 and 12.113, which related to the start-up of a new student loans information system. The Committee noted that the Department has taken steps to comply with the recommendations.
9. In consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendations at paragraph 12.117, the Committee noted that the Department has taken steps to ensure that the trustees of the Student Aid Fund meet regularly to review financial information and to oversee the administration of the fund.
10. The committee adjourned consideration of Chapter 12 of the Provincial Auditor's report.
11. It was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.
12. The Committee adjourned at 10:03 a.m. until Tuesday March 7, 1995.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Harold Martens
Chair