

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

April 30, 1996

## MINUTE NO. 6

9:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Gantefoer in the Chair and Members Aldridge, Flavel, Haverstock, Koenker, Pringle, Sonntag, Stanger, Thomson and Toth

### **Provincial Auditor's Office**

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor

Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor

Robert Black, Director-Value for Money

Judy D. Ferguson, Executive Director

### **Provincial Comptroller's Office**

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller

Terry Paton, Executive Director

2. The Committee agreed to resume deliberation on Section C of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations (Improving Understanding of Government Activity)*. The issue of a multi-year, government-wide summary planning document was considered with respect to a Committee recommendation. It was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That this committee reiterates recommendation number three of the Seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislature and takes note of the Finance Minister's response.

A debate arising and the question being put, the motion was agreed to on division.

3. The Committee proceeded to consider recommendations made at Section D of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendation (Annual Reports of Crown Agencies)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the Section and answered questions put by Members.
4. The Committee considered the Auditor's recommendations made at Section D.3 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the referral of all Crown agencies' annual reports to a Standing Committee. The Committee agreed to reiterate the comments on the subject made in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Assembly).
5. The Committee recessed at 10:45 a.m. until 10:55 a.m.

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6. The Committee considered the Auditor's recommendations made at Section D.1 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the timely public release of annual reports of Crown agencies. It was agreed to recommend that the government take action to amend *The Tabling of Documents Act* in order to enable the tabling of reports through the Office of the Clerk when the Assembly is not sitting.
7. The Committee considered the Auditor's recommendations made at Section D.2 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning guidelines for the content of annual reports issued by Crown agencies. The Committee noted progress made by the government on this issue and concurred with the recommendation made at D.2 with respect to Crown corporations under the jurisdiction of the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan.
8. The Committee proceeded to consider recommendations made at Section E of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendation (Financial Management Review Commission)*. Mr. Wendel of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the Section and answered questions put by Members.
9. The Committee considered the Auditor's recommendations made at Sections E.1 and E.2 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the release of results of matters under review and re-examination of Commission recommendations not implemented. The Committee deliberated on the issue and agreed to recommend the following:
  - a) That the government provide the Legislative Assembly with a final, concluding report on the implementation of the Gass Commission [Financial Management Review Commission];
  - b) That the report should detail which recommendations have been implemented, which recommendations have not been implemented and should be, and what plans are in place to do so; and which recommendations should not be implemented, and the reasons why not;
  - c) That the government should release background papers, studies and other materials that can appropriately be released along with the report.

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10. The Committee reviewed issues related to Section I of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations (Working with Other Auditors)*. The Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the section and answered questions put by Members.

The Committee acknowledged the results of the Task Force on Roles, Responsibilities and Duties of Auditors and expressed its continuing support for the process.

11. The Committee adjourned at 11:35 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday May 7, 1996.

Gregory A. Putz  
Committee Clerk

Rod Gantefer  
Committee Chair