

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

May 14, 1996

MINUTE NO. 8

9:30 a.m. — Room 10

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

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor

Robert Black, Director-Value for Money

Judy D. Ferguson, Executive Director

Michael A. Heffernan, Executive Director

L. Jane Knox, Principal - Value for Money Audit

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Gerry Kraus, Provincial Comptroller

Terry Paton, Executive Director

2. In consideration of the Committee's next meeting date, it was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That notwithstanding the regular meeting times adopted on March 19, 1996, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts shall not meet on May 21, 1996 but shall reconvene on May 28, 1996.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. The Committee proceeded to consider Section F of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendation (Boards of Directors of Crown Agencies)*. The Provincial Auditor and Ms. Ferguson provided an overview of the section and answered questions put by Members.
4. The Committee adopted the Auditor's recommendations made at Section F.1, F.2 and F.3 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*.
5. The Committee recessed at 10:27 a.m. until 10:35 a.m.
6. The Committee proceeded to consider Section J of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendation (District Health Boards)*, in conjunction with Chapter 2 (Health -- Summary) and Chapter 9 (District Health Boards) of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor*. The Provincial Auditor provided an overview of Chapter 2. Mr. Heffernan and Ms. Knox provided an overview of Chapter 9.

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The Committee welcomed the following Department of Health officials:

N. Duane Adams, Deputy Minister

Kathy Langlois, Executive Director, Finance & Management Services Branch

Barry Lacey, Director of Administration, Finance & Management Services Branch

Naomi Mellor, Director of Integrated Financial Services, Finance & Management Services Branch

Lois Borden, Executive Director, District Support Branch

7. In consideration of the recommendations made at paragraphs 9.16, 9.17 and 9.18 contained in Part B of Chapter 9 of the Spring 1996 Auditor's Report, concerning District Health Board Health Needs Assessment Process, it was moved by Mr. Pringle:

That the Public Accounts Committee recognizes that it will take some time before districts are able to fully implement their needs assessment processes (4 to 5 years), and recognizes the good work district health boards have done to date in the areas of need assessment and furthermore;

That the Public Accounts Committee recommends that the Department of Health and District Health Boards work together over the next few years to improve needs assessment processes and address those concerns raised by the Provincial Auditor.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

8. The Committee acknowledged an invitation to participate in the 1996 conference of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, from September 8 through September 10, 1996 received from Mr. Fred Gingell, Chairperson, Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts (British Columbia) and President, Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee, 1995-96. It was moved by Ms. Stanger:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts authorize the attendance of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Committee Clerk at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, Sunday September 8 through Tuesday September 10, 1996, and further:

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That if the Chair or Vice-Chair cannot attend they may designate another Committee member to attend in their place.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

9. The Committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday May 28, 1996.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Rod Gantefoer
Committee Chair