

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

October 9th, 1996

MINUTE NO. 14

9:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Gantfoer in the Chair and Members 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
Brian R. Atkinson, Executive Director
Andrew Martens, Manager
Ed Montgomery, Director
Garnet Harrison, Auditor
Scott Smith, Auditor

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee proceeded to deliberate on Section S of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations (Saskatchewan Transportation Corporation)* .
3. The Committee concurred with recommendation S.1 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the improvement of computer information systems security and confidentiality policy of Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC). The Committee noted that STC is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
4. The Committee concurred with recommendation S.2 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning control of changes made to computer programs and information stored on its computer system . The Committee noted that STC is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The Committee strongly concurred with recommendation S.3 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the establishment of rules and procedures for the recording of cash sales. The Committee noted that STC is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

6. The Committee concurred with recommendation S.4 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the preparation and testing of a written contingency plan for STC's information system. The Committee noted that STC is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
7. The Committee proceeded to deliberate on Section R of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations (SaskPower Corporation)*.
8. The Committee considered recommendation R.1 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval before the selling of real property by Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd. It was moved by Mr. Toth:

That the Public Accounts Committee accept the recommendation of the Provincial Auditor (re: S.P.C. recommendation R.1).

A debate arising and the question being put, the motion was negatived. It was then moved by Mr. Koenker:

That this Committee defeat recommendation R.1 and seek clarification from Executive Council as to the legislative powers of Crown subsidiaries.

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

9. The Committee concurred with recommendation R.2 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning the tabling of financial statements for Channel Lake Petroleum Ltd., Northern Enterprises Fund Inc., Power Greenhouses Inc., and the Power Corporation Superannuation Plan in the Legislative Assembly. The Committee noted that SaskPower Corporation is in the process of complying with the recommendation.
10. The Committee recessed at 10:35 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
11. The Committee proceeded to deliberate on Section P of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations (Saskatchewan Government Growth Management Corporation)*. The corporation president responded to questions put by members.

The following official appeared before the Committee:

Gary K. Benson, President

12. The Committee concurred with recommendation P.1 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations*, concerning a requirement that management should invest funds held for investors in eligible businesses as required by The Canada Immigration Regulations, but noted that the matter was better resolved through changes to the said federal regulations. The Committee requested that the Provincial Auditor contact the Auditor General of Canada to discuss means to resolve the issue.
13. The Committee acknowledged receipt of and initiated consideration of research materials (*re: Tabled Documents PAC 11/23, Planning and Performance Reports*) provided by the Provincial Auditor with respect to multi-year summary planning information available to the public in other Canadian jurisdictions, provided pursuant to a request of the committee made in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Provincial Auditor responded to questions put by Members.
14. The Committee recessed at 3:10 p.m. until 3:26 p.m.
15. The Committee noted that the information provided as Tabled Document PAC 11/23 pertained to Recommendation No.2 of the First Report and therefore agreed to address the matter upon receipt of the Minister of Finance's response to the said recommendation.
16. The committee acknowledged receipt of the results of the Chair's survey (*re: Tabled Document PAC 9/23, Publication of Annual Reports by Senior Governments in Canada*), concerning the number of Canadian governments that publish an annual report. As the information pertained to Recommendation No.1 of the First Report, it was agreed that the matter would be addressed upon receipt of the Minister of Finance's response to the said recommendation.
17. It was moved by Mr. Toth:

That this Committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.
18. The Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday October 10th, 1996.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Rod Gantfoer
Committee Chair

