

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
December 9th, 1996

MINUTE NO. 17
1:30 p.m. — Room 10

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

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelloff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
Robert Black, Director-Value for Money
Mike Heffernan, Executive Director

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee considered an agenda (distributed November 15, 1996) for meetings to be held December 9th through December 13th. It was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That the agenda be adopted.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. Mr. Gantefer advised the Committee of his intention to resign as Chair effective at the conclusion of the business agenda on Friday, December 13th.
4. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 8 (Department of Health) of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor*. Mr. Heffernan of the Provincial Auditor's Office provided an overview of the chapter and officials of the Department of Health responded to questions put by Members.

The following Department of Health officials appeared before the Committee:

Witnesses

N. Duane Adams, Deputy Minister
Kathy Langlois, Executive Director, Finance & Management Services Branch
Barry Lacey, Acting Director of Integrated Financial Services, Finance & Management Services Branch
Wolfgang Langenbacher, Acting Director of Administration, Finance and Management Services Branch
Wanda Lamberti, Financial Analyst, Finance and Management Services Branch.

5. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.27, concerning the reporting requirements of District Health Board service agreements, and agreed that the recommendation should be complied with as service agreements are renewed.
6. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.33, concerning the timely submission of Health Plans and noted that the Health Plans are an improved accountability tool.
7. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.34, concerning a three year plan for funding of District Health Boards, and noted that the Department intends to comply to the best of its ability.
8. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.39, concerning the timely submission by the District Health Boards of periodic reports to the Department of Health.
9. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.44, concerning the follow-up of District Health Board audit reports.
10. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.49, concerning the necessity for written rules for the preparation of internal financial reports, and noted that progress is being made by the Department of Health to comply.
11. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.50, concerning the approval by the Deputy Minister of rules and procedures for the preparation of internal financial reports.
12. In consideration of the recommendation made at paragraph 8.55, concerning the improvement of internal financial reports, it was moved by Mr. Pringle:

That the Public Accounts Committee encourage the Department of Health to review its internal financial reports to ensure that they meet the needs of senior management to plan adequately and appropriately in relation to the Provincial Auditors recommendation 8.55.

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

13. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.63, concerning the transfer of information from one computer system to another, and noted that the Department intends to comply.
14. The Committee adopted the recommendation made at paragraph 8.64, concerning the approval by senior management of new computer systems.

15. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.72, concerning the ability of District Health Boards to provide information to the Minister of Health, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
16. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.73, concerning the costing of activities by District Health Boards and what information is needed by the Department, and noted the intention of the Department to comply.
17. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.77, concerning the monthly reporting requirements of *The Hospital Standards Act*, and noted that the Department intends to comply by seeking the required changes to the Act.
18. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.82, concerning the approval of purchases of equipment as required by the Hospital Standards Regulations, and noted that the Department is taking the required measures to comply.
19. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.87, concerning the necessary approval requirements by District Health Boards for certain transactions, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
20. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.94, concerning Order-in-Council authorization of pay and expenses of District Health Board members, and noted that the Department has complied.
21. In consideration of the recommendation made at paragraph 8.100, concerning the method of accounting for certain charges to the Department's appropriation, it was moved by Mr. Pringle:

That the Public Accounts Committee recommends that the Provincial Auditor, the Department of Health, and the Department of Finance work together and attempt to resolve the issue raised in paragraph 8.100.

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

22. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.112, concerning the improvement of information contained in the Department's annual report to the Assembly, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
23. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.113, concerning the provision of summary information on the costs of District Health Board services and costs, and noted the intention of the Department of Health to comply.

24. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.121, concerning the provision of a list of persons who received money from the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation (SCF), and noted that the SCF has complied.
25. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.124, concerning the inclusion of comparative information in the annual financial statements of the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation, and noted that the SCF has complied in its fiscal year 1995-96 statement.
26. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.133, concerning future strategic planning of the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation, and noted that progress is being made by the SCF to comply.
27. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.164, concerning agreements between the Department and the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission, and noted compliance.
28. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.167, concerning the provision of a list of payees to the Assembly by the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission, and noted that the Commission intends to comply.
29. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.176, concerning the preparation of a written policy and procedure manual by the La Ronge Hospital Board, and noted that the Board is taking measures to comply.
30. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.181, concerning the periodic financial reporting requirements of the La Ronge Hospital Board, and noted that the Board is taking measures to comply.
31. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.185, concerning the improvement of the internal financial reports made by the La Ronge Hospital to its Board, and noted that measures have been taken to comply.
32. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.189, concerning the safe storage of computer disks by the La Ronge Hospital, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.
33. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.193, concerning the keeping of records of capital assets by the La Ronge Hospital, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.

34. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.194, concerning the periodic comparison of capital assets to hospital records by the La Ronge Hospital, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.
35. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.197, concerning the provision of information required by *The Hospital Standards Act* by the La Ronge Hospital to the Minister of Health, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.
36. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.202, concerning the need for quorum to ratify decisions of the La Ronge Hospital Board, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.
37. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 8.206, concerning the provision of a list of payees by the La Ronge Hospital to the Legislative Assembly, and noted that the Hospital is taking measures to comply.
38. In consideration of the recommendation made at paragraph 8.213, concerning the provision of a list of persons who receive money from the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Fund, it was moved by Ms. Haverstock:

That the Department of Health review this issue further and report back to the Public Accounts Committee on the implications of adopting the Provincial Auditor's recommendation 8.213.

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

39. The Committee adjourned at 4:34 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday December 10th, 1996.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Rod Gantefoer
Committee Chair