

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

December 10th, 1996

MINUTE NO. 18

9:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Gantefer 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 (*for Department of Highways and Transportation*)

Rosemarie Evelt, Manager (*for Department of Economic Development*)

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Director, Financial Management Branch

Jim Fallows, Manager

Dan Dufour, Analyst

2. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 14 (Department of Economic Development) of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor* and matters related to the year under review. Ms. Evelt of the Provincial Auditor's Office provided an overview of the chapter and officials of the Department of Economic Development responded to questions put by Members.

The following Department of Economic Development officials appeared before the Committee:

Witnesses

Clare Kirkland, Deputy Minister

Donna Johnson, Director, Administration

3. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 14.15, concerning compliance with established procedures to ensure funds given to the Saskatchewan Tourism Authority by the Department are spent for the Department's purposes. It was noted that the Department has complied with the recommendation.
4. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 14.19, concerning activity reports of ministerial assistants, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.

5. The Committee recessed at 10:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
6. The Committee proceeded to consider Chapter 19 (Department of Highways and Transportation) of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor* and matters related to the year under review. Ms. Ferguson of the Provincial Auditor's Office provided an overview of the chapter and officials of the Department of Highways and Transportation responded to questions put by Members.

The following Department of Highways and Transportation officials appeared before the Committee:

Witnesses

Brian King, Deputy Minister

Lynn Tulloch, Executive Director, Corporate Information Services

Don Metz, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister

Stu Armstrong, Executive Director, Northern Region

7. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.20, concerning the rules and procedures for the preparation of interim financial reports, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
8. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.28, concerning compliance with purchasing policies. The Committee noted that the Department has complied with the recommendation and is considering local purchase options for supplies.
9. The Committee concurred with the recommendations made at paragraph 19.32, concerning ministerial assistant time sheets, and noted that the Department has complied.
10. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.39, concerning Highways Revolving Fund accounting manuals, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
11. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.40, concerning submission of Highways Revolving Fund quarterly financial statements to Treasury Board within thirty days after the close of each quarter, and noted that the Department has complied.
12. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.49, concerning compliance with Departmental rules and procedures for computer system development, and noted that the Department has complied.

13. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.50, concerning restriction of access to the Department's computer systems, and noted that the Department has complied.
14. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.54, concerning the definition of financial reporting needs and the cost effectiveness of the Department's accounting system, and noted that progress is being made by the Department to comply.
15. The Committee concurred with the recommendation made at paragraph 19.60, concerning the preparation and tabling of Treasury Board Crown corporations created under *The Crown Corporations Act, 1993*, namely the Transportation Partnerships Corporation. It was noted that the Department has taken steps to ensure compliance.
16. It was moved by Mr. Flavel:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.
17. The Committee adjourned at 3:17 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday December 11th, 1996.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Rod Gantefer
Committee Chair

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