

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

January 6th, 1997

MINUTE NO. 22

9:30 a.m. — Room 10

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Gantfoer in the Chair (presided during the business agenda) and Members Aldridge, Flavel, Haverstock, Koenker, Pringle, Sonntag, Stanger, Thomson and Toth.

Provincial Auditor's Office

Wayne Strelieff, Provincial Auditor
Fred Wendel, Assistant Provincial Auditor
Robert Black, Director-Value for Money
Gordon Neill, Q.C., Merchant Law Group

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller
Chris Bayda, Director, Financial Management Branch
Lori Taylor, Manager, Financial Management Branch
Elaine Wood, Senior Analyst, Financial Management Branch
Dave Tulloch, Senior Analyst, Financial Management Branch

2. The Committee considered a meeting agenda (distributed December 23, 1996). It was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That the agenda be adopted.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. The following document received since the last meeting of the committee was tabled and distributed:

PAC 14/23 - Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training:

Administrative guidelines and appendices used to administer the Canada-Saskatchewan student loan program (1996-97).

4. The Committee considered a request of the Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training concerning the quantities to be provided of the publication entitled *Administrative guidelines and appendices used to administer the Canada-Saskatchewan student loan program* (for years 1991 through 1995). The Committee had asked the Department to supply 15 copies of each of the documents during the meeting of December 11th, 1996. It was agreed that one copy of the document would be sufficient for each of the opposition caucus (via the Chair), the government caucus (via the Vice-Chair), the third party caucus (via Mr. Toth) and to Ms. Haverstock.

5. The Committee resumed consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendations N.3 and N.4 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations* and Chapter 22 of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor*.

The following documents were tabled:

PAC 15/23 - Office of the Provincial Auditor: Report by the Provincial Auditor to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts regarding a request for information related to Greystone Capital Management Inc. (formerly Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan), December 18, 1996. Distributed to committee members on December 23, 1996.

PAC 16/23 - Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk - Legal opinion regarding Greystone Capital Management Inc., SaskPen Properties Ltd. And SP Two Properties Ltd. Distributed to committee members on December 23, 1996.

PAC 17/23 - Department of Justice - Legal opinion regarding Greystone Management Inc., SaskPen Properties and SP Two Properties. Distributed to committee members on December 27, 1996.

PAC 18/23 - Greystone Capital Management Inc. - Legal opinion regarding Greystone Capital Management Inc. Distributed to committee members on December 30, 1996.

6. In consideration of the Provincial Auditor's recommendations N.3 and N.4 of the *Schedule of Provincial Audit Recommendations* and Chapter 22 of the *Spring 1996 Report of the Provincial Auditor*, it was moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That the Committee acknowledge the results of the legal opinions, of which the majority did not support the Auditor's position, and as a result reject the Auditor's recommendations and consider this matter closed.

A debate arising, it was moved by Mr. Aldridge in amendment thereto:

That the motion be amended by deleting all the words after "opinions" and substituting the following words:

and recommends that the provincial Auditor seek the cooperation of Greystone Capital Management Inc. to jointly submit to the Saskatchewan Court of appeal a jointly agreed upon set of facts and a question to resolve this matter.

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

7. The Committee proceeded to consider a memorandum of the Provincial Comptroller tabled April 23, 1996 (PAC 5/23) entitled *Resolved Recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (As Contained in Appendix V of the Provincial Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 1993)*. It was moved by Mr. Toth:

That the committee is satisfied that the outstanding recommendations have been complied with.

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

8. The Chair announced his resignation and tabled the following letter:

PAC 19/96 - Mr. Gantefoer - Letter of resignation as Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts effective Monday, January 6, 1997.

9. The Clerk to the Committee presided over the election of a Chair. Mr. Sonntag nominated Mr. Aldridge for the position. There being no further nominations, it was moved by Ms. Stanger:

That nominations for the position of Chair close.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. It was then moved by Mr. Sonntag:

That Mr. Gerard Aldridge be elected to preside as Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to and Mr. Aldridge took the Chair.

10. It was moved by Ms. Haverstock:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

11. The Committee adjourned at 11:16 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Gregory A. Putz
Committee Clerk

Gerard Aldridge
Committee Chair