

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

January 7, 2008

MINUTE NO. 2

2:00 p.m. – Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Van Mulligen in the Chair and Members Bradshaw, Chisholm, Harrison, Michelson, Nilson and Reiter.

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor
Brian Atkinson, Assistant Provincial Auditor
Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Angèle Borys, Principal – Support Services
Rod Grabarczyk, Principal
Kim Lowe, Principal
Sandy Walker, Manager – Administration
Heather Tomlin, Data Systems Administrator

Provincial Comptroller's Office

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

2. The following documents, which were received during the period of July to the dissolution of the 25th Legislature on October 10, 2007, were tabled:

PAC 59/25 - Department of First Nations and Métis Relations: Responses to question raised at the June 25, 2007 meeting of the committee, dated July 19, 2007.

PAC 60/25 - Department of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007, dated August 2, 2007.

PAC 61/25 - Department of Health: Responses to question raised at the June 25, 2007 meeting of the committee, re: copy of correspondence and information on the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations Disability Income Plan for the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, dated August 8, 2007.

PAC 62/25 - Department of Finance: Government's response to the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, dated September 6, 2007.

3. The following document was tabled intersessionally since the start of the 26th Legislature:

PAC 1/26 - Department of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from July 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007, dated December 19, 2007.

4. The clerk provided an orientation of the committee's mandate and general operating practices. A draft version of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Procedures Manual was distributed.
5. The Provincial Auditor provided an overview of his office's role and responsibilities with regard to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.
6. The committee proceeded to consider the Business and Financial Plan of the Office of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 2008. Mr. Wendel provided an overview of the plan and answered questions.

7. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That the 2008-2009 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA01 – Provincial Auditor) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$6,507,000.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

8. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That the 2008-2009 Estimates of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (Vote 28, subvote PA02 – Unforeseen Expenses) be approved, as submitted, in the amount of \$438,000.

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

9. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That the Estimates as approved be forwarded to the Speaker as Chair of the Board of Internal Economy, pursuant to section 10.1(4) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

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

10. The committee recessed from 3:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m.

11. Mr. Paton and Mr. Bayda provided an overview of the Provincial Comptroller's role and responsibilities with regard to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

12. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 9 (Workers' Compensation Board) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Workers' Compensation Board officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

John Solomon, Chairman

Peter Federko, Chief Executive Officer

13. The following document was tabled:

PAC 2/26 – Workers' Compensation Board: Presentation material including:

- The Meredith Principles – The Foundation of Workers' Compensation in Canada; and
- Saskatchewan WCB – Interjurisdictional Performance Comparisons (2006)

14. The committee adjourned at 4:36 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008.