

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

January 9, 2008

### MINUTE NO. 4

9:00 a.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  
Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor  
Kim Lowe, Principal  
Carolyn O'Quinn, Principal  
Melanie Heebner, Manager  
Angie Hungle, Manager

#### **Provincial Comptroller's Office**

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

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 8 (Executive Council) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Ministry of Executive Council officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

#### Witnesses

Garnet Garven, Deputy Minister to the Premier and Cabinet Secretary  
Bonita Cairns, Director, Corporate Services

2. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-1 made at page 108 of Chapter 8 (Executive Council) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Executive Council should adequately review the payroll for accuracy prior to paying its employees to ensure that all employees' pay is approved in accordance with *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*. The committee noted that the Ministry of Executive Council is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
3. The committee recessed at 9:10 a.m. until 9:25 a.m.
4. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 16 (Learning) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Ministry of Education officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

#### Witnesses

Audrey Roadhouse, Deputy Minister  
Helen Horsman, Assistant Deputy Minister

Witnesses (continued)

Darren McKee, Assistant Deputy Minister

David Tulloch, Director, Financial Planning and Management

Dawn Court, Senior Financial Manager, Financial Planning and Management

Gwen Mowbray, Acting Executive Director, Human Resources

Duane Rieger, Director, Audit Services Unit, Corporate Services Branch, Advanced Education,  
Employment and Labour/Education

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-1 made at page 305 of Chapter 16 (Learning) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education should adequately review the payroll for accuracy prior to paying its employees to ensure that all employees' pay is approved in accordance with *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*. The committee noted that the Ministry of Education is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 16-2 made at page 306 of Chapter 16 (Learning) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education should follow its established procedures for user access to its systems and data. The committee noted that the Ministry of Education has complied with the recommendation.
7. The committee recessed at 9:36 a.m. until 9:45 a.m.
8. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

John Law, Deputy Minister

Ted Stobbs, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services

Gary Diebel, Director, Finance and Administration

9. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-1 made at page 255 of Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure should adequately review the payroll for accuracy prior to paying its employees to ensure that all employees' pay is approved in accordance with *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-2 made at page 256 of Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure should monitor roles assigned to users in its human resource / payroll system. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
11. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-3 made at page 256 of Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure should promptly remove computer network access from former employees. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-4 made at page 257 of Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure should complete an agreement with the Information and Technology Office for information technology services. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
13. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-5 made at page 258 of Chapter 12 (Highways and Transportation) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure should prepare a complete business continuity plan. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
14. The committee recessed from 10:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.
15. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 17 (Liquor and Gaming) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Barry Lacey, President and CEO  
Rod Wiley, Vice President and CFO, Corporate Services Division  
Jim Engel, Vice President, Policy and Planning Division  
Fiona Cribb, Acting Vice President, Gaming Operations Division

16. The committee concurred with recommendation 17A-1 made at page 316 of Chapter 17A (Liquor and Gaming Authority) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Liquor and Gaming Authority should improve employee training so that employees understand and follow approved policies and procedures. The committee noted that the Liquor and Gaming Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
17. The committee concurred with recommendation 17A-2 made at page 316 of Chapter 17A (Liquor and Gaming Authority) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Liquor and Gaming Authority should follow its approved information technology policies and procedures. The committee noted that the Liquor and Gaming Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
18. The committee recessed from 10:41 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.
19. The committee resumed consideration of its Procedures Manual. A discussion ensued and it was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts adopts its Procedures Manual.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

20. It was moved by Mr. Bradshaw:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was carried.

21. The committee adjourned at 10:49 a.m. to the call of the chair.

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Margaret A. Woods  
Committee Clerk

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Harry Van Mulligen  
Committee Chair