

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

April 2, 2008

MINUTE NO. 5

10:00 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
Rod Grabarczyk, Principal
Kelly Deis, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 3/26 - Department of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007, dated February 1, 2008.

PAC 4/26 - Department of Health: Responses to question raised at the January 21, 2008 meeting of the committee, re: integrated community health centre fundraising and inspection of public eating establishments, dated February 21, 2008.

3. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 7 (Environment) 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 Ministry of Environment and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ministry of the Environment:

Liz Quarshie, Deputy Minister
Dave Phillips, Assistant Deputy Minister
Bob Ruggles, Associate Deputy Minister
Lin Gallagher, Executive Director, Environment Protection
Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Finance & Administration
Rob Spelliscy, Director, Financial Management

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority:

Wayne Dybig, Vice President, Operations
Bill Duncan, Director, Infrastructure Management

4. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-1 made at page 94 of Chapter 7 (Environment) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Environment 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 Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-2 made at page 94 of Chapter 7 (Environment) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Environment should made an appropriate service level agreement with the Information Technology Office. The committee noted that the Ministry of Environment has complied with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-3 made at page 98 of Chapter 7 (Environment) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Environment should improve its human resource plan by providing measurable targets and indicators for its key strategies. The committee noted that the Ministry of Environment is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

7. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That the committee do now meet *in camera*.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

8. The committee met *in camera* to discuss the report of the Steering Committee and appointments to the Audit Committee.

9. It was moved by Mr. Bradshaw:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was carried.

10. The committee adjourned at 10:40 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Harry Van Mulligen
Committee Chair