

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

MINUTE NO. 8

8:30 a.m. – Room 8

1. **PRESENT:** Mr. Harry Van Mulligen in the Chair and Members Fred Bradshaw, Michael Chisholm, Jeremy Harrison, Warren Michelson, John Nilson and Jim Reiter.

Other Member

Trent Wotherspoon

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Rod Grabarczyk, Principal

Jeff Kress, Principal

Kim Lowe, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Mr. Grabarczyk 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

Shirley Robertson, Acting Executive Director, Teachers' Superannuation Commission

Dave Tulloch, Director, Financial Planning & Management

3. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-1 made at page 41 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should develop and implement a strategic plan that includes its goals and objectives, a summary of the key risks it faces, and the key strategies to manage those risks. The committee noted that Teachers' Superannuation Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
4. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-2 made at page 42 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should develop and implement an information technology strategic plan based on key risks faced by the Commission and the key strategies to manage those risks. The committee noted that Teachers' Superannuation Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
5. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-3 made at page 42 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should comply with its governance manual. The committee noted that Teachers' Superannuation Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

6. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-4 made at page 43 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should identify its human resource needs and develop strategies to address any identified competency gaps.
7. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-5 made at page 45 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should:
 - Maintain proper financial records;
 - Establish and communicate to staff policies and procedures to control public money relating to its benefit plans; and
 - Obtain approval for bank overdrafts as required by *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*.The committee noted that Teachers' Superannuation Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-6 made at page 46 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should establish complete and written guidance for preparing its interim and year-end financial reports. The committee noted that Teachers' Superannuation Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-7 made at page 46 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission's annual report should include a report on the activities and the financial statements for each benefit plan the Commission administers.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 3-8 made at page 46 of Chapter 3 (Education) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Teachers' Superannuation Commission should provide its annual report to the Legislative Assembly by the date required by law.
11. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Mr. Kress of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Ministry of Justice and Attorney General officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Ken Acton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Civil Justice

Gordon Sisson, Director, Administrative Services Branch

Jeffery Markewich, Senior Financial Policy Advisor, Administrative Services Branch

Allen Snell, Chief Executive Officer, Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission

Jerome Boyko, Director of Finance, Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission

12. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-1 made at page 100 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should update its information technology security policies and procedures based on a risk assessment. The committee noted that Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-2 made at page 101 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should physically secure network computers (servers) located in its area offices. The committee noted that Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
14. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-3 made at page 102 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should follow its password standards and monitor user access for its systems. The committee noted that Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
15. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-4 made at page 103 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should adequately configure, update, and monitor its computers and network equipment. The committee noted that Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
16. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-5 made at page 104 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should adequately store, secure, and test its backups of information stored on its computers.
17. The committee concurred with recommendation 8-6 made at page 104 of Chapter 8 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission should develop and test a disaster recovery plan for its information systems and data.
18. It was moved by Mr. Bradshaw:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was carried.
19. The committee adjourned at 9:08 a.m. to the call of the chair.