

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Wednesday, November 26, 2008

MINUTE NO. 10
9:30 a.m. – Room 8

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

Substituting Member

Tim McMillan for Jim Reiter

Provincial Auditor's Office

Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Kim Lowe, Principal

Andrew Martens, Principal

Corrine Rybchuk, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following documents were tabled:

PAC 6/26 - Ministry of Finance: Responses to question raised at the August 28, 2008 meeting of the committee, re: Ministry of Justice 2006-2007 revenue breakdown, dated August 28, 2008.

PAC 7/26 - Ministry of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008, dated October 31, 2008.

3. The committee proceeded to consider the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)*. Ms. Ferguson of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Doug Matthies, Deputy Minister

Brian Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Employee Benefit Agency (PEBA)

Joanne Brockman, Executive Director, Economic and Fiscal Policy

4. The committee did not concur with recommendation 1 made at page 22 of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* that the Government should use the summary reporting entity as the primary basis for reporting its financial plans and results.
5. The committee did not concur with recommendation 2 made at page 22 of the *2008 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2)* that the Government should include a statement of operations with estimated revenues and expenses in its summary financial budget.

6. The committee proceeded to consider Chapter 21 (Regional Economic and Co-operative Development) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Martens of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Enterprise Saskatchewan officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Dale Botting, Chief Executive Officer
Denise Haas, Chief Financial Officer
Gerry Offet, Chief Operating Officer

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 21-1 made at page 368 of Chapter 21 (Regional Economic and Co-operative Development) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Enterprise Saskatchewan should adequately review the payroll for accuracy prior to paying its employees to ensure that it approves all employees' pay in accordance with *The Financial Administration Act, 1993*. The committee noted that the Enterprise Saskatchewan is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 21-2 made at page 369 of Chapter 21 (Regional Economic and Co-operative Development) of the *2007 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Enterprise Saskatchewan should obtain Order in Council approval for agreements where it is liable to make payments greater than \$50,000 as required by *The Economic and Cooperative Development Act*. The committee noted that the Enterprise Saskatchewan has complied with the recommendation.
9. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, the motion was carried.

10. The committee adjourned at 10:47 a.m. to the call of the chair.

Margaret A. Woods
Committee Clerk

Harry Van Mulligen
Committee Chair