

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Wednesday, May 12, 2010

MINUTE NO. 22
9:59 a.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the Chair and Members Michael Chisholm, Dan D'Autremont, Warren Michelson, John Nilson*, Laura Ross and Lyle Stewart.

Substituting Members

John Nilson for Pat Atkinson

Provincial Auditor's Office

Brian Atkinson, Acting Provincial Auditor
Ed Montgomery, Deputy Provincial Auditor
Mark Anderson, Principal
Kim Lowe, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

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

2. The following document was tabled:

PAC 21/26 - Ministry of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010, dated April 30, 2010.

3. The committee recognized the retirement of Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor. It was moved by Mr. Chisholm:

That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts desires to record their respectful appreciation for the 39 years of distinguished and dedicated service given by Fred Wendel to the Province of Saskatchewan, including 10 years as an officer of the Legislative Assembly.

The question being put, it was agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

4. The committee considered Chapter 2 (Advanced Education, Employment and Labour) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Advanced Education, Employment and Labour officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Clare Isman, Deputy Minister
Reg Urbanowski, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and Student Services
Karen Allen, Executive Director, Corporate Services

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 2-1 made at page 30 of Chapter 2 (Advanced Education, Employment and Labour) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour prepare an information technology

strategic plan. The committee noted that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

6. The committee recessed from 10:17 a.m. until 10:21 a.m.
7. The committee considered Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Montgomery of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Audrey Roadhouse, Deputy Minister
Helen Horsman, Assistant Deputy Minister
Darren McKee, Assistant Deputy Minister
Darryl Hunter, Executive Director, Accountability, Assessment and Records
Dawn Court, Director, Financial Planning and Management
Sue Amundrud, Associate Executive Director, Curriculum and E-Learning
Sonya Leib, Senior Financial Manager, Financial Planning and Management

8. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-1 made at page 55 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education require all public libraries to prepare their financial statements following the standards as recommended by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. The committee noted that the Ministry of Education is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-2 made at page 55 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education prepare an information technology strategic plan. The committee noted that the Ministry of Education is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-3 made at page 61 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education define “instruction time” to set clear expectations for delivery of the core curriculum.
11. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-4 made at page 62 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education require school divisions to publicly report on their performance in meeting the Ministry’s instruction time requirements.
12. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-5 made at page 63 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education monitor for all core curriculum areas of study the extent to which school divisions meet the Ministry’s requirements for instruction time.
13. The committee concurred with recommendation 4-6 made at page 64 of Chapter 4 (Education) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Education take corrective action where necessary to improve school division compliance with the Ministry’s requirements for instruction time.

14. It was moved by Ms. Ross:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

15. The committee adjourned at 10:54 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Kathy Burianyk
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Committee Chair

