

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Friday, June 18, 2010

MINUTE NO. 23

8:02 a.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the Chair and Members Pat Atkinson, Dan D'Autremont, Warren McCall*, Warren Michelson, Laura Ross and Lyle Stewart.

Substituting Members

Warren McCall for Pat Atkinson (2:52 p.m. - 3:06 p.m. only)

Other Members

David Forbes, Frank Quennell

Provincial Auditor's Office

Brian Atkinson, Acting Provincial Auditor

Bashar Ahmad, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Mark Anderson, Principal

Tara Clemett, Principal

Kelly Deis, Principal

Jane Knox, Principal

Jeff Kress, Principal

Kim Lowe, Principal

Regan Sommerfeld, Principal

Rosemarie Volk, Principal

Melanie Heebner, Manager

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Jon Altwasser, Analyst, Financial Management

2. The Chair advised the committee that, pursuant to Rule 141(2), the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* was deemed referred to the committee on June 3, 2010, and the *Office of the Provincial Auditor Annual Report on Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2010* was deemed referred to the committee on June 10, 2010.
3. The committee considered Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Bashar Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Dan Florizone, Deputy Minister

Dr. Louise Greenberg, Associate Deputy Minister

Lauren Donnelly, Assistant Deputy Minister

Max Hendricks, Assistant Deputy Minister

Ted Warawa, Executive Director, Financial Services Branch

Roseann Anderson, Director, Finance, Health Information Solutions Centre

Garth Herbert, Director, Financial Compliance and Internal Audit, Financial Services Branch

Cara Smith, Senior Financial Analyst, Financial Services Branch

Duncan Fisher, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister

4. It was moved by Mr. Stewart:

That the committee adhere to the \$50,000 threshold, in regard to payee disclosure reporting, that was set under the previous administration.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 10A-1 made at page 172 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency follow its processes to control its bank account when making payments to employees. The committee noted that the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-1 made at page 188 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Prairie North Regional Health Authority follow its established processes to control its bank account when paying its suppliers. The committee noted that the Prairie North Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
7. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-2 made at page 188 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority follow its established processes to control its bank account when paying its suppliers. The committee noted that the Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-3 made at page 189 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority adequately protect its information technology systems and data. The committee noted that the Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-4 made at page 190 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Heartland Regional Health Authority adequately protect its information technology systems and data. The committee noted that the Heartland Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
10. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-5 made at page 190 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority adequately protect its information technology systems and data. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
11. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-6 made at page 190 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Keewatin Yatthé Health Authority establish an adequate agreement with its information technology service provider. The committee noted that the Keewatin Yatthé Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
12. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-7 made at page 192 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Prairie North Regional Health Authority

assess the need for an internal audit function. The committee noted that the Prairie North Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

13. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-8 made at page 192 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority assess the need for an internal audit function. The committee noted that the Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
14. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-9 made at page 193 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Heartland Regional Health Authority maintain a current list of its capital assets. The committee noted that the Heartland Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
15. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-10 made at page 193 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority obtain all the required reports from its affiliates in a timely manner and review those reports to monitor affiliates' spending. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
16. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-11 made at page 195 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority analyze the extent of its workforce gaps and estimate their future impact on service delivery. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
17. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-12 made at page 196 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority clarify the resources it needs to implement its human resources plan. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
18. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-13 made at page 197 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority identify human resources risks and monitor them at least quarterly using key performance measures. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
19. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-14 made at page 197 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Saskatoon Regional Health Authority clarify the resources it needs to implement its human resources plan. The committee noted that the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
20. The committee concurred with recommendation 10B-15 made at page 199 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that all regional health authorities establish adequate disaster recovery plans and test those plans to ensure their effectiveness. The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
21. The committee concurred with recommendation 10C-1 made at page 220 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Health's strategic plan

include its strategy for the electronic health record system. The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

22. The committee concurred with recommendation 10C-2 made at page 221 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Health develop an operational plan to guide the development and implementation of the electronic health record system. The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
23. The committee concurred with recommendation 10C-3 made at page 222 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Health monitor its overall costs and timelines, compared to its plans, for development and implementation of the electronic health record system. The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
24. The committee concurred with recommendation 10C-4 made at page 223 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Ministry of Health develop performance measures to allow it to assess and report its progress in achieving the electronic health record benefits. The committee noted that the Ministry of Health is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
25. The committee concurred with recommendation 10D-1 made at page 230 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Heartland Regional Health Authority document its procedures to remove confidential information during disposal of information technology and communications equipment. The committee noted that the Heartland Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
26. The committee concurred with recommendation 10D-2 made at page 231 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Heartland Regional Health Authority document that it follows its approved policy and procedures when disposing of information technology and communications equipment. The committee noted that the Heartland Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.
27. The committee concurred with recommendation 10D-3 made at page 232 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that Heartland Regional Health Authority regularly verify that its procedures to remove sensitive information from information technology and communications equipment are effective.
28. The committee concurred with recommendation 10E-1 made at page 239 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority communicate to its staff and physicians the highest risks to patient safety, the factors contributing to them, and recommended action. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
29. The committee concurred with recommendation 10E-2 made at page 242 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority analyze the factors contributing to reported events causing harm to patients and use that analysis to guide region-wide action. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

30. The committee concurred with recommendation 10E-3 made at page 242 of Chapter 10 (Health) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority receive, at least annually, a report of patient safety results including targets, outstanding patient safety concerns, and feasible options to resolve them. The committee noted that the Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority has complied with the recommendation.

31. The committee recessed from 10:13 a.m. until 10:22 p.m.

32. The committee considered Chapter 20 (Standing Committee on Public Accounts) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Kim Lowe of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The Acting Provincial Auditor and the official from his office answered questions.

33. The committee recessed from 10:33 a.m. until 12:58 p.m.

34. The committee considered Chapter 17 (Social Services) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Bashar Ahmad of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Social Services officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Marian Zerr, Deputy Minister

Cheryl Senecal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child & Family Services

Alan Syhlonyk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services

Bob Wihlidal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Income Assistance & Disability Services

Don Allen, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing

Lynn Allan, Executive Director, Child and Family Services, Program and Service Design

Lorne Brown, Executive Director, Enterprise Projects & Risk Management

Miriam Myers, Executive Director, Finance & Administration

Jeff Redekop, Executive Director, IADS, Program & Service Design

Gord Tweed, Director, Program Design, Operational Policy & Standards

35. The committee recessed from 1:49 p.m. until 1:51 p.m.

36. The committee considered Chapter 12 (Information Technology Office) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Jeff Kress of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Information Technology Office officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Gerald Fiske, Deputy Minister and Chief Information and Services Officer

Phil Lambert, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations

Richard Murray, Executive Director, Corporate Services

37. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-1 made at page 260 of Chapter 12 (Information Technology Office) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Information

Technology Office provide relevant and timely security reports to its clients. The committee noted that the Information Technology Office is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

38. The committee concurred with recommendation 12-2 made at page 261 of Chapter 12 (Information Technology Office) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)* that the Information Technology Office supervise its employees to ensure they follow established security policies and procedures. The committee noted that the Information Technology Office has complied with the recommendation.

39. The committee recessed from 2:10 p.m. until 2:14 p.m.

40. The committee considered Chapter 16 (Public Service Commission) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Ms. Tara Clemett of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Public Service Commission officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

Don Wincherauk, Chair

Raman Visvanathan, Executive Director, Employee Service Centre

Don Zerr, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Human Resource Management and Employee Relations

Giselle Fontaine, Director, Staffing Systems and Support

Lorraine Von Hagen, Manager, Corporate Services, Finance and It Services

41. The committee recessed from 2:31 p.m. until 2:36 p.m.

42. The committee considered Chapter 13 (Justice and Attorney General) of the *2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3)*. Mr. Kelly Deis of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

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

Witnesses

Gerald Tegart, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General

Ken Acton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts and Civil Justice

Rod Crook, Assistant Deputy Minister, Regulatory Services

Allan Snell, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Saskatchewan

Jerome Boyko, Director, Finance, Legal Aid Saskatchewan

Cathy Drader, Director, Information Management

Jeff Markewich, Director, Assurance and Financial Reporting, Corporate Services

43. The committee recessed from 2:55 p.m. until 2:59 p.m.

44. The committee considered its representation at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Annual Conference in Quebec City on August 29 to 31, 2010.

45. It was moved by Mr. D'Autremont:

That the Standing Committee authorize the attendance of the Chair and Deputy Chair or their designate, of the PAC committee to attend the CCPAC conference to be held in Quebec City August 29 -31, 2010.

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

46. It was moved by Mr. Michelson:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.

47. The committee adjourned at 3:06 p.m. until June 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Kathy Burianyk
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Committee Chair