

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Wednesday, November 24, 2010

MINUTE NO. 26
10:00 a.m. – Room 8

1. **Present:** Trent Wotherspoon in the Chair and Members Pat Atkinson, Dan D'Autremont, Rod Gantefoer, Glen Hart, Warren Michelson and Lyle Stewart.

Provincial Auditor's Office

Brian Atkinson, Acting Provincial Auditor

Judy Ferguson, Deputy Provincial Auditor

Trevor St. John, Principal

Provincial Comptroller's Office

Terry Paton, Provincial Comptroller

Chris Bayda, Executive Director, Financial Management Branch

2. The following document was tabled:

PAC 25/26 - Ministry of Finance: Reporting of public losses for the period from July 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010, dated October 29, 2010.

3. The Chair advised the committee that pursuant to Rule 141(2), the *2009 – 2010 Public Accounts (Volume 2)* was deemed referred to the committee on October 7, 2010.
4. The committee considered Chapter 7 (Highways and Infrastructure) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Mr. St. John of the Office of the Provincial Auditor provided an overview of the chapter.

The following Highways and Infrastructure officials appeared before the committee and answered questions:

Witnesses

George Stamatinos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Programs Division

Ted Stobbs, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations Division

Ron Gerbrandt, Executive Director, Engineering Standards

5. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-1 made at page 89 of Chapter 7 (Highways and Infrastructure) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure set long-term service-level objectives (such as long-term surface-condition factors). The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
6. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-2 made at page 90 of Chapter 7 (Highways and Infrastructure) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure use service-level objectives to determine its annual and longer-term maintenance priorities. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.

7. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-3 made at page 91 of Chapter 7 (Highways and Infrastructure) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure assess the reasonableness of maintenance costs used to develop its maintenance plan. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has complied with the recommendation.
8. The committee concurred with recommendation 7-4 made at page 94 of Chapter 7 (Highways and Infrastructure) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)* that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure receive a report on the results of the maintenance activities at the end of the maintenance season, as required. The committee noted that the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is making progress towards complying with the recommendation.
9. The committee recessed from 10:38 a.m. until 10:40 a.m.
10. The committee considered Chapter 11 (Social Services) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*. Ms. Ferguson 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

Alan Syhlonyk, Assistant Deputy Minister

Don Allen, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing

Miriam Myers, Executive Director, Finance and Administration, Corporate Services

11. The committee concluded consideration of Chapter 11 (Social Services) of the *2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 1)*.
12. It was moved by Mr. Hart:

That this committee do now adjourn.

The question being put, it was agreed to.
13. The committee adjourned at 10:57 a.m. to the call of the Chair.

Kathy Burianyk
Committee Clerk

Trent Wotherspoon
Committee Chair

