

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS



FIRST REPORT

November 9, 2021

2nd SESSION of the 29th LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Standing Committee on Public Accounts



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November 9, 2021

To the Honourable Members
of the Legislative Assembly
of Saskatchewan

HONOURABLE MEMBERS:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts is pleased to present its first report to the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly.

The first report summarizes the activity undertaken for the Provincial Auditor selection process, makes a formal recommendation for appointment, and includes a biography of the recommended candidate.

It has been an honour and pleasure for your committee to work together on behalf of the legislature of Saskatchewan and the people of this province.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Trent Wotherspoon, MLA
Regina Rosemont
Chair

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COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, Chair
Regina Rosemont

Ms. Colleen Young, Deputy Chair
Lloydminster

Mr. Marv Friesen
Saskatoon Riversdale

Mr. Todd Goudy
Melfort

Mr. Delbert Kirsch
Batoche

Mr. Hugh Nerlien
Kelvington-Wadena

Mr. Dana Skoropad
Arm River

Ms. Aleana Young
Regina University

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pursuant to section 21(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, your committee sought the assistance of two recognized subject matter experts from the Audit Committee to assist in the Provincial Auditor selection process. Your committee wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to Mr. Pat Pitka, Chair of the Audit Committee, and Dr. Regan Schmidt, member of the Audit Committee. We would also like to thank Rob Park, Senior Procedural Clerk, and Hanna Ly, Principal Director, Human Resources, of the Legislative Assembly Service for their administrative and human resource assistance.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ms. Judy Ferguson resigned as Provincial Auditor as of June 30, 2021. Ms. Tara Clemett has been the Acting Provincial Auditor since July 1, 2021.

Your committee adopted the *First Report of the Steering Committee Provincial Auditor Selection Process* on May 12, 2021. This report outlined the recommended process regarding the selection process for the position of Provincial Auditor.

Under section 3.1 (2) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts is required to unanimously recommend an individual to the Legislative Assembly, which then makes the appointment by order.

III. THE SELECTION PROCESS

Your committee's steering committee, comprised of Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, Chair, and Ms. Colleen Young, Deputy Chair, discussed the process for selecting a new Provincial Auditor at a meeting on March 1, 2021. It was agreed that a similar selection process should be adopted by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts as was used to recommend the last Provincial Auditor in March 2015. Your committee tabled and adopted the *First Report of the Steering Committee Provincial Auditor Selection Process* at a meeting on May 12, 2021. Your committee agreed to nine recommendations, which guided the Provincial Auditor selection process.

As outlined by the approved recommendations by your committee, a screening panel was formed. The steering committee agreed to the two subject matter experts, who were members of the Audit Committee, Pat Pitka and Regan Schmidt. As well, two Legislative Assembly Service staff members, Hanna Ly and Rob Park, who provided human resource and administrative support.

Your steering committee approved documents and the position was advertised for a four week period beginning July 19, 2021. The deadline for accepting applications was August 19, 2021.

The position was advertised in the following newspapers and websites:

- *The Leader Post* and *Star Phoenix* newspapers (July 24 and 31)
- Saskatchewan Public Service Commission website
- Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Service website
- Saskatchewan Provincial Auditor website
- MBAjobs website
- SaskJobs
- Chartered Professional Accountants Saskatchewan website

Interested candidates were invited to submit their cover letters and resumes to an email address. The management of the resumes and fielding of inquiries from candidates were primarily administrative in nature and managed by the Senior Procedural Clerk.

The screening panel met on August 24, 2021 to assess all applications that were received. Once the assessment process was completed, the screening panel shortlisted three applicants to proceed in the selection process.

The three candidates were interviewed over the period of September 14 to 16, 2021. The screening panel conducted the interviews while the steering committee participated as observers.

The screening panel and steering committee agreed to a list of individuals to be contacted for reference checks. The reference checks were completed on the following dates:

September 15, 2021
September 16, 2021
September 17, 2021

September 22, 2021
September 23, 2021
September 27, 2021
October 1, 2021
October 4, 2021

After considering the interview and reference check assessment documents for each candidate, the screening panel completed its assessment and recommended that your Standing Committee on Public Accounts interview the candidates who were deemed meritorious.

The second interviews took place on October 19, 2021. The screening panel was in attendance to ensure the continuity of the overall process.

After careful deliberation, your Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed on one of the candidates to be recommended to the Legislative Assembly for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

After carefully reviewing the qualifications of each candidate and the results of the interviews, your committee makes the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to s. 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, your Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly the name of Ms. Tara Clemett for appointment to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

A biography of Ms. Clemett appears in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

Tara Clemett, CPA, CA, CISA, has been the Acting Provincial Auditor for the Province of Saskatchewan since July 1, 2021.

Ms. Clemett has worked at the Office of the Provincial Auditor for more than 20 years, most recently as a Deputy Provincial Auditor responsible for the Health division. Her portfolio encompasses the ministries of Health and Social Services, as well as all the regional health authorities in the province and health care organizations, such as the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. She directly leads the annual integrated audit of the Authority.

Ms. Clemett is a Chartered Professional Accountant, a Certified Information Systems Auditor and holds a Bachelor of Administration degree from the University of Regina. She actively works with advisory groups under the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors. Her experience includes financial and performance audits, as well as those focused on information technology, healthcare, child welfare and advocacy, and the environment.