

Minister of Finance



SASKATCHEWAN

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December 20, 2011

Mr. Trent Wotherspoon, Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Room 7, 2405 Legislative Drive
2405 Legislative Drive
REGINA SK S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Wotherspoon:

I am writing in response to the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Twenty-sixth Legislature.

I have attached an Appendix which provides the Government's responses to the recommendations made by the Committee.

The Government would like to acknowledge the work of the members of the Committee and express its appreciation of the service and assistance provided by the Office of the Clerk, the Provincial Auditor and her staff and officials from the Provincial Comptroller's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Krawetz".

Ken Krawetz
Minister of Finance

Attachment

cc: Lyle Stewart, Deputy Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Appendix

Committee Recommendation 1:

That the Committee (PAC) adheres to the \$50,000 threshold, in regard to payee disclosure reporting, that was set under the previous administration.

(Background: PAC requested Health provide payee information on contracts. It was noted that contracts of \$50,000 or greater are disclosed in the Public Accounts and that this threshold should be adhered to.)

Reference: 2009 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 3) – Chapter 10: Health

Government Response:

The Government concurs with the Committee's recommendation. The Government discloses payees that received \$50,000 or more in Volume 2 of the Public Accounts.

Committee Recommendation 2:

That Kelsey Trail Health Authority and the Ministry of Health report to PAC on September 30, 2011 the progress achieved on the Auditor's recommendation in the 2010 Report Volume 2 Chapter 11C.

Reference: 2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2) – Chapter 11C: Maintenance of Medical Equipment

Government Response:

The Government concurs with the Committee's recommendation. Kelsey Trail Health Authority provided a report to PAC documenting its progress on Auditor's recommendations in the 2010 Report Volume 2 Chapter 11C.

Committee Recommendation 3:

That when the Provincial Auditor next reports that they take a look at all of the necessary protections that ITO has in place to ensure the citizens of Saskatchewan that their third party contractor cannot share information with the parent company where the parent company is subject to the *Patriot Act*.

Reference: 2010 Report of the Provincial Auditor (Volume 2) – Chapter 13: Information Technology Office

Government Response:

The Government concurs with the Committee's recommendation and noted that the Provincial Auditor included a chapter titled "Protecting Saskatchewan data – the USA Patriot Act" in her 2011 Report Volume 2 in response to the Committee's recommendation.