

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Timely Completion of the Government of Saskatchewan Financial Audit

The Government received an unmodified audit opinion on its 2023–24 financial statements

REGINA—June 27, 2024: Required under The Provincial Auditor Act, the Office of the Provincial Auditor audits the Government of Saskatchewan's financial statements, which reports on the financial performance of the entire Government and the financial condition of the province. The financial statements include the combined financial results of all the agencies that the Government controls (over 160 agencies including the Saskatchewan Health Authority, school divisions, SaskPower, and the Ministry of Finance).

Public Accounts – Volume 1 includes the Government of Saskatchewan's financial statements and our Office's Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements. It also includes the Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis document to read in conjunction with the financial statements as it provides a good synopsis of the Government's financial performance.

"Saskatchewan is typically one of the first provinces across Canada to release its Public Accounts, including the Government's audited financial statements that provide reliable financial results to legislators and the public," said Tara Clemett, "This timely audit work is a result of the great collaboration and professionalism between many public sector staff and our Office team."

The Government of Saskatchewan received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion on its 2023-24 financial statements. This not only indicates the financial statements meet Canadian public sector accounting standards, but also our Office is satisfied with the reliability of the Government's financial statements, and they are free of significant errors.

While millions of transactions are summarized into the Government's financial statements, audits do not mean our Office examines every transaction. Instead, financial audits focus on areas of risk and places where significant errors are likely to occur. Our Independent Auditor's Report outlines three key audit matters where we focused our audit effort. These matters included pension liabilities, individual and corporate taxation revenue, and nonrenewable resources revenue (such as from oil and gas or potash) because they are complex and require a high degree of estimation (uncertainty).

During this audit, our Office found the Provincial Government did not pay all fuel charges to the Federal Government as required under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act from January to March 2024. This non-remittance does not have a significant impact on the Government's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2024, and our audit opinion is not modified in respect to this matter. However, the financial statements may have significant errors in future periods from continued non-compliance with the Act.

The Provincial Auditor is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. The Office promotes accountability and better management by providing legislators and the public with an independent assessment and reporting of the government's use of public resources.

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