

**Annual Report on Operations  
For the Year Ended  
March 31, 2009**



## **Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan**

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**This Report and previous Reports are  
available on the Internet at  
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### **Vision**

We envision effective, open, and accountable government.

### **Mission**

We serve the people of Saskatchewan through the Legislative Assembly by fostering excellence in public sector management and accountability.



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June 9, 2009

The Honourable D. Toth  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 129, Legislative Building  
REGINA, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B3

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit my *Annual Report on Operations For the Year Ended March 31, 2009* to be laid before the Legislative Assembly under the provisions of Section 14.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*. The information in this report reflects known events up to May 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'F. Wendel'.

Fred Wendel, CMA, CA  
Provincial Auditor

/dd



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## Provincial Auditor's Comments

I am pleased to present my 2009 Annual Report on Operations. This report on operations is an important part of the accountability process for my Office. It completes the accountability cycle that began when we published our 2009 Business and Financial Plan. The plan and this report on operations help legislators and the public assess our performance.

This report on operations outlines what my Office planned to do and describes what we achieved. It shows how we used the resources entrusted to us. And, this report provides assurance from our auditor that the information is reliable.

My Office has three goals: to foster well-managed government, encourage meaningful reporting by government, and manage our business effectively. The Performance section of this report, beginning on page 22, summarizes our targets and results for these goals. The Financial Highlights section of this report, beginning on page 35, provides additional financial detail.

The performance information in this report shows that 2009 was a successful year for the Office. Completing our work plan and publishing the results of our work were the focus of our efforts during the year. To provide timely information, we published our report to the Legislative Assembly on Government performance in three volumes.

Volumes 1 and 3 of our 2008 Report contain our assurance and advice to the Legislative Assembly. These reports cover about 270 agencies and help to improve public sector governance, management, and program performance.

Volume 2 of our 2008 Report focuses on understanding the finances of the Government using several key financial and economic indicators. The report also provides information to allow comparisons of the Government's finances to those of other provinces. My Office has prepared a report on the Government's financial condition since 1994.

My Office continues to work closely with the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA). CCOLA is devoted to sharing information to enable more effective legislative auditing. Working with

CCOLA helps my Office challenge and improve our processes to do relevant, reliable, and cost-effective auditing.

Our success depends on the efforts of many people. For example, legislators support our work by providing the money we need to audit the Government. For the last fourteen years, legislators have supported the Office's budget requests. Adequate funding helps the Office meet legislators' expectations. Also, legislators' careful public review of our reports helps ensure that our work makes a difference.

Government officials and their appointed auditors also contribute to our success. Without the Government's co-operation and assistance, I would be unable to report on the quality of its management to the Legislative Assembly.

And finally, my colleagues are key to the Office successfully fulfilling its mandate. Our reports to the Legislative Assembly are the result of their skills, dedication, and hard work.



Fred Wendel, CMA, CA  
Provincial Auditor



## Context

### Independence

*The Provincial Auditor Act* creates an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly called the Provincial Auditor. The Act gives the Provincial Auditor the responsibility to audit all government agencies and report his findings to the Legislative Assembly.

The Act ensures that the Provincial Auditor is independent from elected and appointed officials including the Assembly's committees and boards. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, an all-party committee that does not include cabinet ministers, unanimously recommends the Provincial Auditor for appointment by the Legislative Assembly for a 10-year term. A resolution of the Legislative Assembly is required to remove the Provincial Auditor from office.

The Act also requires the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to recommend the annual funding for the Provincial Auditor's Office. The Act sets the Provincial Auditor's salary and benefits. The Provincial Auditor also has managerial independence. He decides which employees to hire, what audit work needs to be done, and how the work is carried out.

The Office's policies require all employees to confirm annually whether they have relationships with the Government that could be perceived to affect their independence and objectivity. Also, generally accepted auditing standards require that the Provincial Auditor confirm his independence and objectivity. Fred Wendel confirms that he is independent and objective with respect to the Government of Saskatchewan within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan.

### Who We Serve

The Office of the Provincial Auditor helps the Legislative Assembly hold the Government accountable for how it manages public resources. Our Office examines the Government's management of public resources and reports the findings to the Assembly.

## What We Do

### Our Vision

We envision effective, open, and accountable government.

### Our mission

We serve the people of Saskatchewan through the Legislative Assembly by fostering excellence in public sector management and accountability.

Our mission shapes what we do and how we respond to key economic, political, social, and technological forces affecting those we serve.

### How we carry out our mission

To fulfill our mission, we provide independent assurance (audit reports) and advice on the Government's management of and accountability practices for the public resources entrusted to it. We:

- ◆ Inform the Legislative Assembly about:
  - the reliability of the Government's financial and operational information
  - the Government's compliance with legislative authorities
  - the adequacy of the Government's management of public resources
- ◆ Encourage discussion and debate about public sector management and accountability issues
- ◆ Help the Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies
- ◆ Develop professionals for public service
- ◆ Support and adhere to the accounting and assurance standards recommended by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants

### Our reports

We report our assurance and advice to the Legislative Assembly and the Government.

At the end of each audit, we issue a final report to the Minister responsible, to senior officials of the agency and, if applicable, to the chair of the board of directors. We also send a copy to the Chair and Secretary of Treasury Board and to the Provincial Comptroller.

We provide the Assembly with our audit reports (assurances) on the reliability of the financial statements and other performance reports issued by government agencies.

We also report directly to the Assembly each year. These reports contain the matters that we think are significant to the Assembly and the public. We decide what matters to report using the following questions:

- ◆ Does the matter affect the Assembly's ability to control the financial activities of the Government?
- ◆ Does the matter affect the Assembly's ability to hold the Government accountable for how it administers public money?
- ◆ Does the matter involve improving how the Government administers public money?
- ◆ Does the matter involve non-compliance with legislative authorities?

We assess these questions of what to report for specific government sectors, programs, agencies, and for the whole Government.

When an agency's financial statements, compliance with authorities, and processes to safeguard public resources are satisfactory, we also report that information to the Government and the Legislative Assembly.

## **Outcomes of our work and reports**

Exhibit 1 on page 7 shows the outcomes of our work.

For our parliamentary system of government to work properly, it must have the public's confidence. To merit this confidence, the Government's programs must be effective. Also, the Government must be open and accountable to the public.

Our work and reports affect public confidence in the Government. They provide the public with confidence that the Government's financial and other reports are reliable, the Government uses adequate processes to

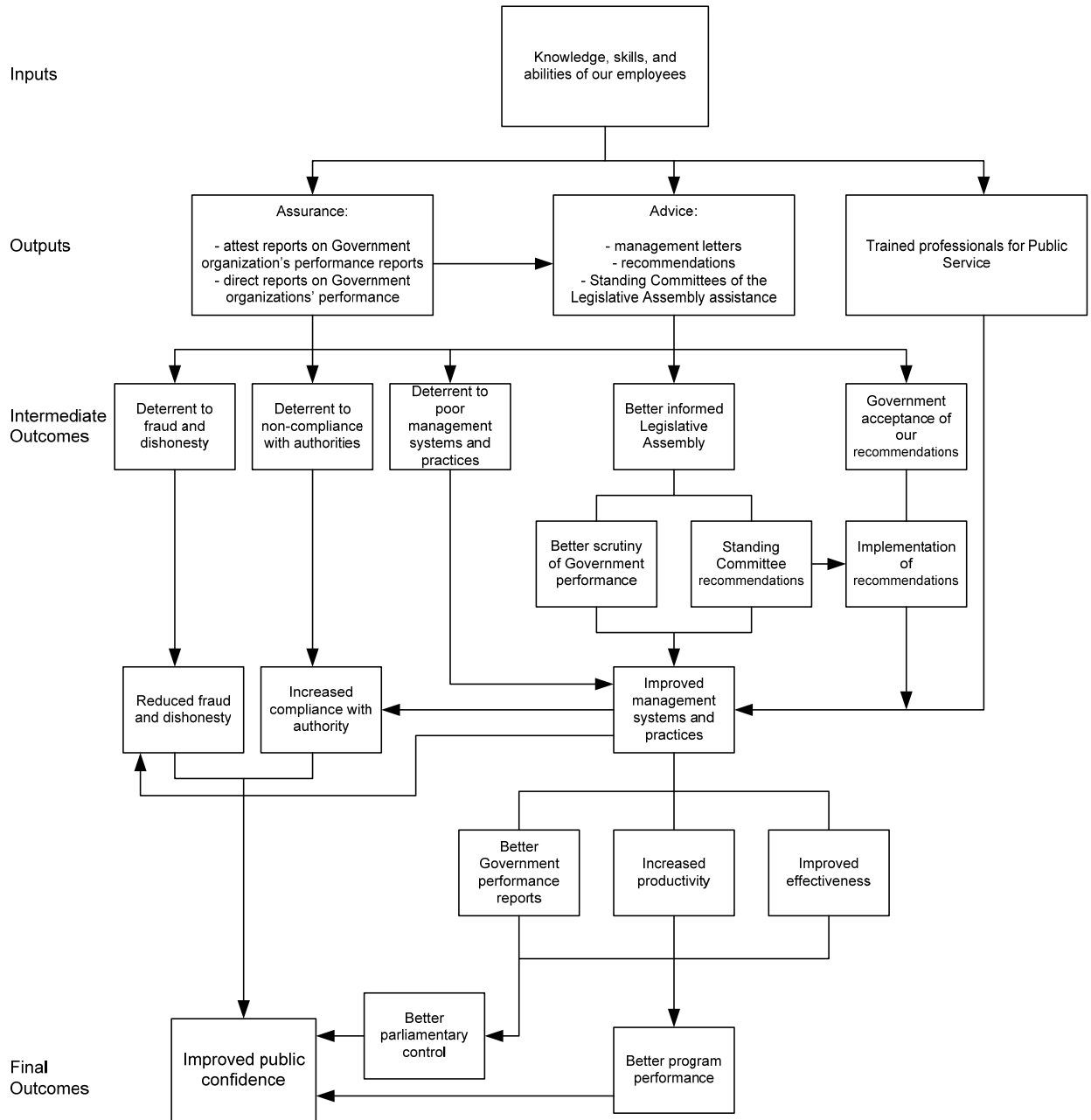
safeguard public resources, and the Government has complied with governing authorities.

One important responsibility of the Legislative Assembly is to hold the Government accountable for its management of public resources. By providing relevant, reliable, and timely reports, we help the Assembly to carry out this responsibility.

Our work and reports call for public accountability for government operations and sound management. They contribute to informed decision making in government and business-like processes. This helps the Government carry out its responsibility to use sound management practices.

What We Do and the Impact of Our Work

Exhibit 1



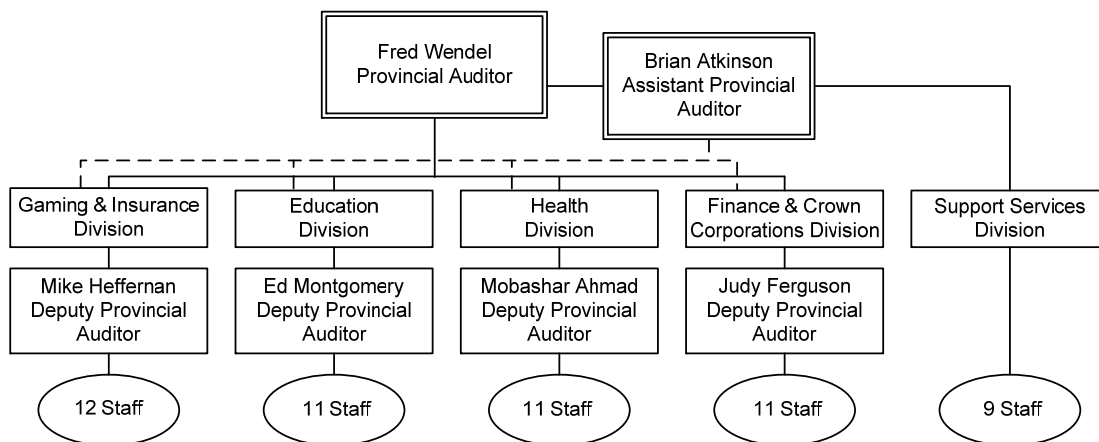
## Our competencies

Our knowledge, skills, and abilities affect what we do for the public, the Legislative Assembly, and the Government. We apply the following competencies and experience to our work and reports:

- ◆ objectivity, because of our full independence from the Government
- ◆ thorough knowledge of the:
  - complex structure and systems the Government uses to manage public resources
  - structure of legislative authorities governing the activities of government agencies related to financial reporting, safeguarding assets, revenue raising, spending, borrowing, and investing
  - audit of information systems
  - accounting and assurance standards recommended by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants
- ◆ working knowledge of the issues facing government agencies operating in diverse types of businesses including education, health, insurance, protection of people and property, pension and benefit plans, energy, telecommunications, gaming, transportation, renewable resources, human resources, construction, and financial services
- ◆ a business view derived from rigorous professional training that we blend with our practical knowledge of public administration

## Our Organization

Exhibit 2



As shown in Exhibit 2, our Office has five divisions. Each division has a distinct focus.

Our Gaming and Insurance Division's responsibilities include examining the Government's gaming, insurance, pension, and resource management programs. The Government earns over \$3 billion annually from non-renewable resources. Also, the Government's pension liabilities total over \$7 billion. Pension and insurance liabilities require our staff to acquire knowledge to understand the methods used by actuaries and the accounting practices in these industries. Gaming operations (casinos) and resource management also require our staff to understand the unique risks in these industries.

Our Education Division's responsibilities include examining the Government's education, training, labour, telecommunications, and infrastructure programs. The education sector (including early childhood development, pre-kindergarten to grade 12 education, technical training, post-secondary education, and provincial libraries) spends over \$2 billion annually. In addition, the Government has over \$10 billion invested in infrastructure. The Division is also responsible for our government-wide information technology audits.

Our Health Division's responsibilities include examining the Government's programs related to health (including regional health authorities), justice, welfare (including child and family services), and distribution of natural energy for home heating gas. Total public spending on health and welfare for the year ended March 31, 2008 was \$4.3 billion. Auditing the delivery of health care and welfare requires our staff to understand risks associated with these programs. The Division also coordinates our work to encourage the Government's efforts in moving to a public accountability system focused on results.

Our Finance and Crown Corporations Division's responsibilities include examining the Government's provincial taxation, debt management, transportation, agricultural, and power production and transmission programs. It also leads the audits of the Government's summary financial statements and Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan.

Our Support Services Division's responsibilities include administration, human resources, research, methodology, training, secretarial, clerical, and information technology.

At March 31, 2009, our Office employed 60 people. Thirty of our employees are professional accountants. Fifteen are training to become professional accountants.

Our employees are our most valuable resource because "what we do" depends on their knowledge and skills. Creating and maintaining an environment that encourages and rewards ongoing learning is crucial to our success.

## What We Planned To Do

### Our goals and objectives

We have three goals:

- Foster well-managed Government
- Encourage meaningful reporting by Government
- Manage our business effectively

Exhibit 3 sets out our goals and objectives. On pages 67 to 83, we set out a summary of our strategic plan for 2005 to 2009 including our goals, objectives, general strategies, and action plans.

### Exhibit 3—Our Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – Foster well-managed Government

Objectives:

- 1.1 Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's accountability to the Assembly.
- 1.2 Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's processes to achieve intended results.

Goal 2 – Encourage meaningful reporting by Government

Objectives:

- 2.1 The Government provides useful summary plans and results to the Assembly.
- 2.2 Significant agencies report their plans and results to the Assembly.
- 2.3 Our stakeholders value our timely assurance and advice on the Government's reports on plans and results.

Goal 3 – Manage our business effectively

Objectives:

- 3.1 Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.
- 3.2 We are leaders in key areas of legislative auditing.
- 3.3 We continuously improve our work.
- 3.4 We embrace our guiding principles.



## Our Guiding Principles

Our Office is committed to earning the respect and confidence of legislators, the public, government officials, and our professional colleagues. Our guiding principles help us meet this objective. The following principles guide us:

**Accountability** – We actively take responsibility for achieving positive results and explaining our performance.

**Balance** – We support the balance between work, home, and community responsibilities.

**Independence** – We maintain objectivity in all our work.

**Innovation** – We seek better ways to achieve results and foster continuous learning.

**Integrity** – We work in a professional, honest, courteous, and fair manner.

**Leadership** – We lead by example and encourage open communication and teamwork.

## Factors affecting our work plan

Annually, we provide a detailed work plan to the Assembly. The work plan reflects our goals, guiding principles, and several other key factors.

Our work plans ensure we fulfill our responsibilities under *The Provincial Auditor Act*. The Act sets out the agencies we must examine.

We prepare our work plan in September for the next fiscal year. When we prepare the plan, it reflects known information about:

- ◆ the Government's revenue and spending
- ◆ the number of government agencies
- ◆ the quality of the Government's records, systems, and practices
- ◆ the Government's use of appointed auditors
- ◆ professional standards
- ◆ the co-operation we expect to receive from government officials and appointed auditors when we do our work
- ◆ the public's expectations

## **Forces and trends affecting our work plan**

Forces and trends also affect our work plans. Six major forces and trends affect our stakeholders (i.e., legislators, the public, and government officials). They also shape our work.

**Advancing technology** – making possible new ways of communicating and providing services, quicker and often at less cost, but requiring attention to security and loss of privacy.

**Changing demographics** – an aging population, a growing Aboriginal population, the depopulation of rural Saskatchewan, and increasing retirements.

**Economic constraints** – increasing demand for government services and continued demand for lower taxes.

**Globalization** – a highly integrated and interdependent world with an increasingly mobile skilled workforce, strong international competition, and global standards.

**Governance** – the need for increased public confidence in government agencies and the increased expectation for public consultation in decision-making processes.

**Pressure on the environment** – the sustainability of our environment balanced with the need for long-term economic activity.

These forces and trends have increased the public's expectations. For example, technology gives the public more accessible information and knowledge about services and taxes in other jurisdictions. Changes in demographics will result in increased demands for services (e.g., health care). The Government's ability to manage scarce public resources and meet the public's increased expectations impacts public attitude.

In Saskatchewan, these forces and trends are straining public resources. They cause stakeholders to re-examine the role of the Government, that is, how it organizes, delivers services, and ensures adequate participation in decision making.

## Our focus

We focus our efforts on helping legislators, government officials, and the public address the challenges emerging from these forces and trends. We encourage the Government to:

- ◆ Report on how it manages the risks related to advancing technology, changing demographics, economic constraints, globalization, and pressure on the environment
- ◆ Improve its management of risks related to public sector human resources and the public's valuable infrastructure, including information technology, for effective service delivery
- ◆ Improve governance processes for better management of public resources
- ◆ Strengthen its management of and accountability for intergovernmental and interagency programs
- ◆ Improve the quality of information provided to legislators on the plans and results of the overall Government and on each of its agencies including Crown corporations

## Indicators of Success

We gauge our success by monitoring seven general indicators. These indicators relate to key outcomes that we plan to achieve through accomplishing our goals and objectives.

### **1. Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice.** (goal 1, objectives 1 & 2)

- The Government acts on 80% of those recommendations that are more than one year old and do not involve major changes.
- The Government acts on 80% of those recommendations that are more than five years old and involve major changes.
- The Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies accept 90% of our recommendations that they consider.

### **2. The Government and its agencies report their plans and results to the Assembly.** (goal 2, objectives 1 & 2)

- By 2008, 80% of the key reporting elements of the summary performance plan meet accepted reporting principles.
- By 2008, 70% of significant agencies publicly report their financial and operating results compared to their targets including information on their key risks and how they manage those risks.

**3. The Assembly receives our timely assurance on the Government's reports on plans and results.** (goal 2, objectives 1, 2, & 3)

- By 2007, 50% of those significant agencies that receive our audit reports on the reliability of their key non-financial performance information include those reports in their public reports.
- Our work is reported by established deadlines and within the planned costs set out in our Business & Financial Plan.

**4. Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.** (goal 3, objective 1)

- The Government acts on 80% of those recommendations that are more than one year old and do not involve major changes.
- The Government acts on 80% of those recommendations that are more than five years old and involve major changes.
- The Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies accept 90% of our recommendations that they consider.
- Our work is reported by established deadlines and within the planned costs set out in our Business & Financial Plan.
- Post audit questionnaires indicate a positive trend in satisfaction with our work.
- Our auditor reports publicly and positively on our performance (e.g., our financial statements, our compliance with *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the adequacy of our financial controls, and the reliability of one of our key non-financial performance indicators per year).

**5. We are leaders in key areas of legislative auditing.** (goal 3, objective 2)

- Our auditor reports publicly and positively on our performance (e.g., our financial statements, our compliance with *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the adequacy of our financial controls, and the reliability of one of our key non-financial performance indicators per year).

**6. We continuously improve our work.** (goal 3, objective 3)

- Our staff time is used as set out in our Business and Financial Plan.
- Post audit questionnaires indicate a positive trend in satisfaction with our work.
- Our pass rates for students in professional accounting programs exceed national averages each year.
- Positive reports on our work from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan.
- Positive CCOLA Peer Review reports on our work.

- Our work is reported by established deadlines and within the planned costs set out in our Business & Financial Plan.
- The Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies accept 90% of our recommendations that they consider.

**7. We maintain a positive healthy work environment.** (goal 3, objective 4)

- Our corporate culture surveys show a positive trend in our working environment.

## Risk Management

### Our key risks

Sound risk management is essential for us to help the Legislative Assembly hold the Government accountable for its management of public resources. To manage risk, we must identify, assess, and reduce to an acceptable level the possible adverse consequences that the Office may experience from events or circumstances.

We routinely identify and assess our risks. We have established processes to reduce the likelihood of adverse consequences to an acceptable level. We accept some risk because it is not cost effective to cut out all risks. The following are our key risks along with the key processes we use to reduce these risks to an acceptable level.

**Our stakeholders do not support our goals and objectives.** For the Office to remain viable, legislators, the public, and government officials (our stakeholders) should support our goals and objectives. Pursuing our goals and objectives must result in relevant assurance (audit reports) and advice for our stakeholders. As discussed more fully in the risks that follow, we have established processes so that we set goals and objectives that will result in relevant assurance and advice for our stakeholders.

**The Government does not act on our recommendations.** Doing independent, reliable, and relevant work at a reasonable cost is vital to our Office's success. These attributes are also essential for our stakeholders to value our advice. We must understand the challenges that the Government faces. Also, our advice must help improve program performance. In the risks that follow, we set out the processes that we use so that our assurance and advice is independent, relevant, reliable, and cost effective.

**We do not adequately understand or respond to the challenges and risks faced by our stakeholders.** If our assurance and advice is to be reliable, we must understand the challenges and risks faced by the Government. How the Government manages its risks affects the nature and extent of work we must do to report to the Assembly.

We must also understand the challenges faced by legislators and the public if our assurance and advice is to be relevant. To be relevant, our assurance and advice should result in better parliamentary control over government activities and better program performance.

On pages 67 to 83, we set out a summary of our strategic plan that enables us to understand the challenges and risks faced by the Government, legislators, and the public.

**The Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies are unable to fulfill their responsibilities.** Our Office must provide assurance and advice that is consistent with the Committees' objectives.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is the audit committee for the Legislative Assembly. The Committee is a key agent of change for improving the Government's management of public resources. The Committee's mandate is to help the Assembly hold the Government accountable for its spending of taxpayers' money and for its stewardship over public resources. The Committee reviews, examines, and evaluates the activities of government ministries and Crown agencies. The Committee works with the Provincial Auditor to carry out the Committee's mandate.

The Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies helps the Legislative Assembly to hold the Government accountable for its management of public resources. The Committee considers matters relating to the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan and its subsidiaries, supply and services, central agencies, liquor, gaming, and all other revenue related agencies and entities. Beginning in 2001, the Assembly referred the parts of our reports that relate to the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC) and its subsidiaries to the Committee for review. During those reviews, the Committee works with the Provincial Auditor to carry out the Committee's mandate.

Our Office must provide independent, relevant, and reliable information that is consistent with the Committees' objectives. To do this, our Office works closely with the Committees. Also, the Office provides the Assembly with an annual business and financial plan and an annual report on operations. The Standing Committee on Public Accounts reviews and provides its advice on these reports.

**We lose or stakeholders perceive that we have lost our independence.** *The Provincial Auditor Act* makes our Office responsible to examine all public resources managed by the Government (e.g., ministries, boards, corporations) and the Legislative Assembly (e.g., Board of Internal Economy).

The Act makes our Office independent of appointed and elected officials so that we can administer the Act without fear of reprisal.

The Act defines the agencies that the Office must examine. The Office decides what work needs to be done and how the work is carried out for the proper administration of the Act.

We guard our independence and report to the Assembly when we are concerned about our independence. Also, the Office has processes to maintain objectivity and independence in our work for the Legislative Assembly.

**We provide inappropriate or incorrect assurance and advice.** Stakeholders must trust and value our assurance (audit reports) and advice. Gaining and keeping their trust is essential to the viability of the Office. On pages 67 to 83, we set out our goals, objectives, general strategies, and action plans to ensure that our assurance and advice are reliable.

Also, in the next section (why systems and practices are important), we describe our quality control system to ensure that our work is reliable. These processes reduce our risk to an acceptable level. But, we recognize systems and practices sometimes fail because of factors such as procedural failures and human error.

**We do not have the required competencies and resources.** The quality of our work is dependent on the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our employees. We have training programs to ensure that our employees have the special competencies we discuss on page 8.

To discharge our statutory responsibilities, we need enough resources to employ the required competent people. We also need enough resources to equip, support, and house our employees. We need the support of legislators to get the required resources. To get this support, we have established processes to ensure that our work is relevant to legislators and reliable. Also, we publish a business and financial plan annually to build legislators' support for our request for resources. When we do not have enough resources to pay for the cost of our work force, we reduce the size of our staff. When this happens, we do not do all the work the law requires us to do and we advise our stakeholders.

**We do not manage our resources effectively.** Our management practices must promote the effective use of our resources. We have established processes to keep this risk at a minimum. These processes include such things as setting direction, setting performance targets, monitoring our guiding principles, training staff, segregating duties, maintaining procedural manuals, delegating authority, processing transactions, reporting, and monitoring results.

### **Why systems and practices are important**

Strong systems and practices ensure we have proper processes to manage the risks that might prevent our Office from achieving its goals including sound financial management. The following briefly describes those systems and practices.

### **Systems and practices for achieving Goals 1 and 2**

For the risks associated with Goal 1 (foster well-managed government) and Goal 2 (encourage meaningful reporting by government), we need systems and practices to ensure the quality of our work; identify and report opportunities for improving government agencies' performance reports and their management processes; and ensure that our work covers all government agencies.

#### ***Quality***

The Office complies with the accounting profession's generally accepted standards of practice. The objective of these standards is to maintain and enhance the quality of audit work.



We established a system of quality control to ensure that the Office and its staff comply with professional standards and legal requirements. The quality control system also ensures that our reports are appropriate.

The Office's system of quality control includes the following elements: leadership responsibilities for quality within the Office; ethical requirements; acceptance of specific assurance work; human resources; engagement performance; and monitoring. We have documented the quality control policies and procedures and communicated them to staff.

The system of quality control promotes recognition that quality is essential in our work. While the Provincial Auditor has ultimate responsibility for the Office's quality control system, the Assistant Provincial Auditor has the operational responsibility. The Office's internal documentation, training materials, and staff appraisal procedures reinforce the view that quality is essential in our work.

We maintain our objectivity and independence in all our work. We routinely ask our staff to know that they comply with our objectivity and independence standards. We also have policies to change senior staff on significant audits at reasonable intervals.

We have hiring, training, and performance evaluation policies to help staff have the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to do their work. These policies also help us broaden our staff's skills in key sectors (e.g., health, education, and social services), information technology, and general management.

We use standard methods for carrying out our work and continually change the methods to reflect best practice. The methods cover how we plan, execute, supervise, review, and report our work. We monitor all our work to know that it meets our standard methods. Also, we have procedures for working with other auditors who audit government agencies.

***Relevant work***

The following systems and practices help us encourage the Government to improve its performance information and processes to achieve intended results (management).

Our Office publishes its strategic plan that includes its goals, objectives, general strategies, and action plans. The strategic plan is the foundation

for our annual business and financial plans. Our processes require us to review the internal and external environments to assess whether changes are required. This helps our Office direct its efforts toward relevant issues.

Our personnel policies ensure that our employees align their activities with our goals and objectives. Each employee's annual work plan shows how the employee will contribute to achieving our goals and objectives. We continually monitor our employees' work plans.

We have established standards that require us to report to agencies in writing our conclusions, findings, and recommendations after each audit. Those standards also require us to meet with agencies to discuss the findings and gain support for our recommendations. Also, we monitor management's satisfaction with our work. We also continuously seek advice from stakeholders when we work with appointed auditors.

### ***Scope of our work***

The following practices ensure that our work covers all government agencies.

The Legislative Assembly, Cabinet, and government agencies create or windup other government agencies. We monitor their actions and continually change our list of government agencies.

We prepare an annual work plan for the Office that covers all government agencies. We use a risk-based model to focus our work. We estimate the costs of carrying out the plan and ask the Assembly for the money to carry out the plan.

### **Systems and practices for achieving Goal 3**

For the risks associated with Goal 3 (manage our business effectively), we need systems and practices to ensure that our stakeholders understand and value our work. We also need processes to ensure that our work is relevant, reliable, timely, and done at a reasonable cost. They help us improve our performance.

### ***Stakeholders understand and value our work***

The following processes help us communicate to our stakeholders who we are, our plans, and the results of our work.

We have processes to prepare reliable plans and performance reports. These documents convey vital information about our Office. We also have processes to make these documents accessible to legislators, the public, and government officials. And, we seek and monitor the views of our stakeholders on our plans and performance.

We have processes to report our assurance and advice to the Legislative Assembly and our other stakeholders in a clear, accessible, and timely manner. We monitor legislators' and the Government's acceptance of our recommendations. We also monitor the use of our reports by legislators, legislative committees, and the media.

***Quality at reasonable cost***

The following systems and practices affect the quality and cost of our services.

For Goals 1 and 2, we established systems and practices to ensure the quality and relevance of our work. These processes include identifying best practices. We continually compare the way we do our work with private sector auditors and other legislative auditors.

We have established systems and practices for the sound financial management of our assets. Our auditor reports publicly that our management systems and practices are adequate (see page 64).

We have established processes so that we report our work by established deadlines and within the planned costs set out in our business and financial plan. We forecast the cost of each audit and monitor the cost. We compare planned to actual costs, and we explain and act on differences. We also routinely compare our costs with private sector auditors' costs to audit government agencies.

Our most significant expense is salaries and benefits. We plan the use of our employees' time and monitor our employees' use of time. We compare planned to actual results, and we explain and act on differences.

Also, because the quality and cost of our work is directly related to our employees, we monitor our employees' views of our working environment.

## Performance

### What We Have Done

#### Background for measuring our performance

We have three basic outputs (services). See Exhibit 1 on page 7. These are assurance (audit reports), advice (recommendations), and trained professionals for public service. Our advice is a by-product of our assurance work. We deliver our services in several ways.

We provide assurance and advice to government officials. We provide assurance by way of reports on the reliability of financial statements, compliance with authorities, and the adequacy of financial management systems and practices. We provide advice and assurance by way of letters to government officials setting out our conclusions, findings, and recommendations for improvement.

We also provide assurance and advice to the Legislative Assembly and the public in our reports to the Assembly. These reports summarize our work at government agencies. They provide assurance and advice on the Government, sectors of the Government, and on each government agency's financial statements, its compliance with authorities, and the adequacy of its financial management systems and practices.

As shown in Exhibit 1 (page 7), our assurance and advice results in two final outcomes. These outcomes are improved public confidence in government and improved performance in the delivery of government programs. We think the Government can gain improved public confidence by improving its performance reports (i.e., business and financial plans and annual reports). We also think the Government can improve the delivery of its programs by acting on our recommendations.

Our trained professionals leave our Office to work in the public sector. They contribute to improved management systems and practices in those agencies. During the year ended March 31, 2009, three of the nine employees who left the Office accepted public sector positions.

Our major input cost to produce our products is salaries and benefits. Salaries and benefits account for 77% of our spending. We monitor and report publicly on the use of staff time.

## Reporting publicly on our performance

Our target is to provide the Assembly with our business and financial plans and our annual reports on operations as required by *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

During the year, we provided the Assembly with our *Annual Report on Operations for the year ended March 31, 2008* and our *Business and Financial Plan for the year ending March 31, 2010* as required by the Act. These reports are available on our website.

## Measuring our performance

We measure our success in achieving our goals and objectives by monitoring our performance targets for each of our seven general indicators. We set out our “Indicators of Success” on pages 13 to 15.

The following discussion and exhibits provide a report card on our performance. We set out our actual and target performance by goal for each of our performance indicators.

### Goal 1: Foster well-managed government

We measure our success in fostering well-managed government based on the Government’s and the Assembly’s acceptance of our recommendations.

For 2009, we had our results for the performance targets for Goal 1 audited. The auditor reported that the performance information for Goal 1 is reliable. We include the auditor’s report and the schedule on pages 57 to 60.

### Government’s acceptance of our recommendations

We group our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly for improving the Government’s performance reports and the Government’s delivery of its programs into two types. Type 1 recommendations are easier to carry out. Our performance target is that the Government will act on 80% of Type 1 recommendations that are more than one year old.

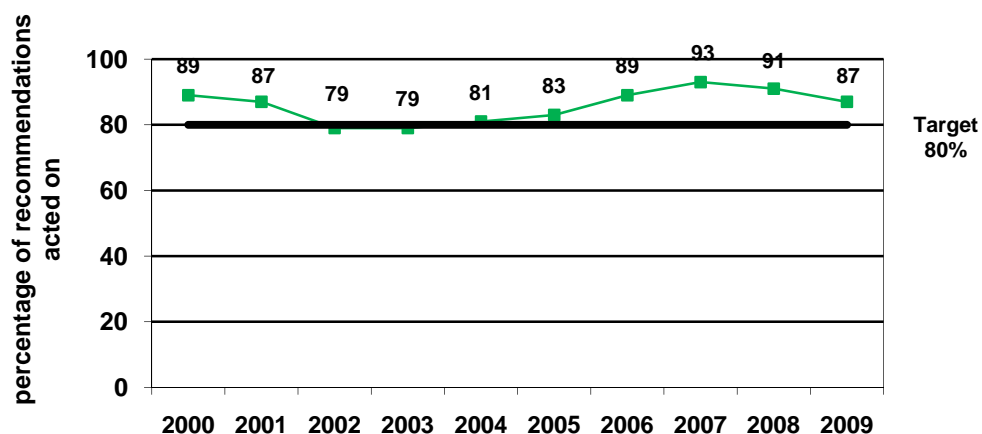
Type 2 recommendations are more difficult to carry out. Our performance target is that the Government will act on 80% of Type 2 recommendations that are more than five years old.

We track our Type 1 recommendations over a five-year period. From April 2004 to March 2009, we made 296 Type 1 recommendations. Of those recommendations, 81 are less than one year old.

For 2009, Exhibit 4 shows that the Government acted on 87% of the Type 1 recommendations that are more than one year old. In 2009, we achieved our target that the Government acts on 80% of our Type 1 recommendations that are more than one year old.

**Exhibit 4**

**Percentage of Total Type 1 Recommendations  
More Than One Year Old  
Acted on by the Government**

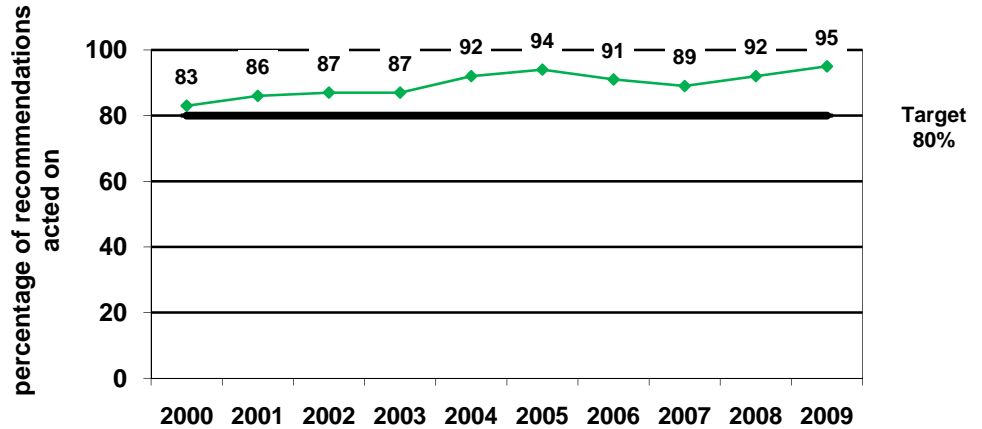


We track our Type 2 recommendations over a ten-year period. From April 1999 to March 2009, we made 360 Type 2 recommendations. Of those recommendations, 250 are less than five years old.

For 2009, Exhibit 5 shows that the Government acted on 95% of the Type 2 recommendations that are more than five years old. We achieved our target that the Government acts on 80% of our Type 2 recommendations that are more than five years old for the past 10 years.

Exhibit 5

**Percentage of Total Type 2 Recommendations  
More Than Five Years Old  
Acted on by the Government**



**Assembly’s acceptance of our recommendations**

The Legislative Assembly refers our reports to the Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies. The work of these Committees is needed for our Office to help improve accountability and the delivery of government programs. Our performance target is that the Committees, and thus the Assembly, will agree with 90% of our recommendations.

We track our recommendations to the Assembly for improving the Government’s performance reports and the Government’s delivery of its programs over a five-year period. During the five-year period ending March 31, 2009, we made 577 recommendations and the Committees reported to the Assembly on 538 of these recommendations.

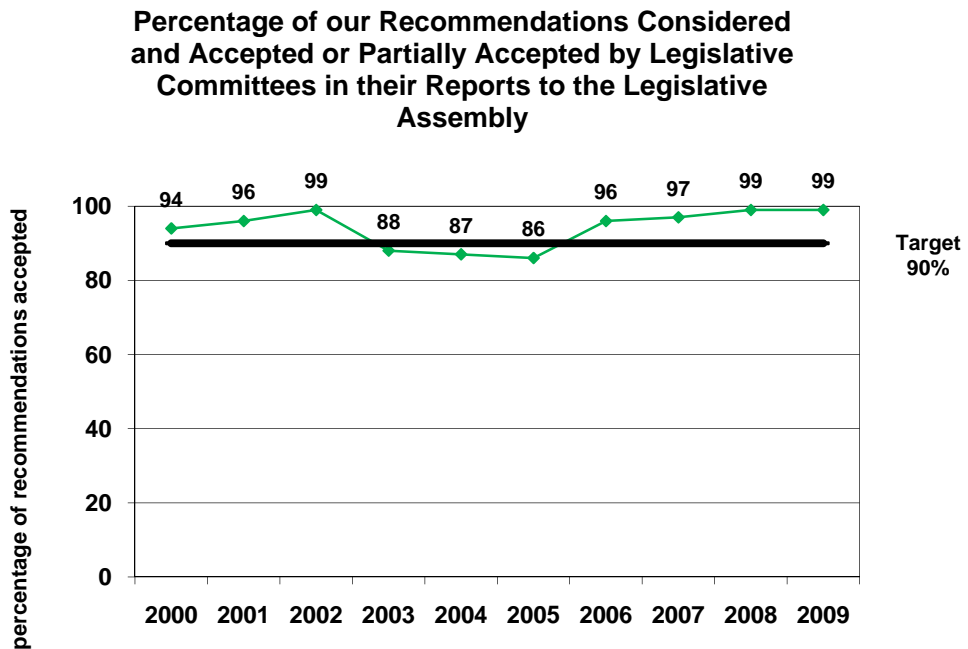
The Committees have not reported to the Assembly on all our recommendations. The Committees decided not to consider 16 of the recommendations in our reports because we told the Committees that the Government had already acted on those recommendations.

The Committees have not yet completed their review of all recommendations in the 2007 Report – Volume 3 and 2008 Report – Volume 1 (3 chapters outstanding with 7 recommendations). At March 31, 2009, the Committees have not yet reported to the Assembly on 16 of the recommendations they have reviewed.

We measure our success based on the Committees' acceptance of our recommendations that they consider and report on to the Assembly. Our performance target is to have the Committees accept 90% of our recommendations.

For 2009, Exhibit 6 shows that the Committees accepted, or partly accepted, 99% of our recommendations that they have reported on to the Assembly. The exhibit shows that we have achieved our target in seven of the past ten years. In 2009, we achieved our target that the Committees accept 90% of our recommendations.

**Exhibit 6**



## **Goal 2: Encourage meaningful reporting by Government**

We measure our performance based on the quality and extent of the Government's public reporting of its planned and actual results. We also measure our performance based on the extent that we provide the Assembly with timely assurance on the Government's reports.

### **Quality and extent of reports**

Meaningful performance reports include reports on the activities of government and reports on the activities of significant agencies. We measure our success using two indicators:



- By 2008, 80% of the key reporting elements of the summary performance plan meet accepted reporting principles.
- By 2008, 70% of significant agencies publicly report their financial and operating results compared to their targets including information on their key risks and how they manage those risks.

For the first indicator, we planned to review the 2009 summary performance plan and to report the results in this report on operations. During our review of the 2005 – 2009 Strategic Plan last year, we reassessed this indicator. We decided that we would review the Government's 2009 performance plan summary as a benchmark for future reviews. We will report the results in our 2010 report on operations.

For the second indicator, we reviewed the 2008 annual reports of all significant agencies. In their 2008 annual reports, 45% of significant agencies reported their financial results compared to targets and included information on their key risks and how they manage those risks. Operating results were reported compared to their targets by 32% of significant agencies. We continue to encourage agencies to publicly report their financial and operating results compared to their targets. We also continue to encourage agencies to set out information on how they manage their key risks.

### **Timely assurance on reports**

To have confidence in reported information, legislators and the public need timely assurance that the Government's reports are reliable. In this regard, we measure our success using two indicators:

- By 2007, we expect 50% of those significant agencies that receive our audit reports on the reliability of their key non-financial performance information will include those reports in their public reports.
- We expect to report our work by established deadlines and within the planned costs set out in our business and financial plans.

For all government agencies, we report on the adequacy of their processes to safeguard public resources, prepare reliable financial reports, and comply with the law. These types of assurances (audit reports) are important to legislators and the public.

In 2009, we continued to encourage management to include an auditor's report on financial control in their public reports. To show leadership, we publish our auditor's reports on the adequacy of our financial

management processes and compliance with the law in our annual reports on operations (see pages 64 and 65).

For the first indicator, we met our target. As reported in 2007, we audited key non-financial performance information for two agencies in 2007:

- We provided an opinion on the reliability and understandability of certain information in the Department of Learning's annual report. We concluded that the performance information reported by Learning in the "What Are We Measuring?" sections for Goal 1 of its *Annual Report 2005-2006*, is in all material respects, reliable, understandable, and in accordance with reporting principles described by management in the report. Our audit opinion was included in Learning's *Annual Report 2005-2006*.
- We provided an opinion on the reliability, understandability, and consistency of certain information in Saskatchewan Transportation Company's (STC) annual report. We concluded that the Balanced Scorecard information presented by STC in its *2006 Annual Report* presents fairly, in all material respects, STC's results for 2006 in accordance with the reporting principles of reliability, understandability, and consistency as described by management in the report. Our audit opinion was included in STC's *2006 Annual Report*.

The second indicator is that we expect to complete our work by established dates and within the costs set out in our business and financial plans. We describe our 2009 results below.

### **Goal 3: Manage our business effectively**

We measure our success in managing our business effectively based on the relevance, quality, cost, and timely completion of our work. We also assess our working environment and the reliability of our management processes and our public reports.

The following discussion and exhibits report our performance compared with our planned performance.

## Quality of our work

We use three indicators for measuring our success in producing quality products for the Assembly. Our work needs to comply with professional standards, legislative committees need to be satisfied with our advice, and government agencies need to be satisfied with our work.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan periodically inspects our Office to ensure that we comply with professional standards. We expect that the Institute will report positively on our work. On pages 61 and 62, we include the Institute's inspection report. The report says that our work complies with professional standards.

During 2009, we participated in the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Inter-jurisdictional Peer Review Process. The Office of the Auditor General of Canada reviewed two of our financial statement audit files. The objective of the review was to determine whether our audit work complied with generally accepted auditing standards of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA). This report is included on page 63. The report says that our work complies with professional standards.

To measure the Committees' satisfaction with our advice (relevance), we monitor the Committees' acceptance of our recommendations. We report on pages 25 to 26 that the Committees accepted 99% of our recommendations in their reports to the Assembly. Based on this indicator, we think that the Committees are satisfied with our advice.

We want government agencies to be satisfied with our work. Our performance target is for survey results to indicate satisfaction with our work. For 2009, we had our results for this performance target audited. The auditor reported that the performance information is reliable. We include the auditor's report and schedule on pages 57 to 60.

This year is the eleventh year that we surveyed government agencies about their satisfaction with our work. The work was related to our examinations of agencies during our fiscal years ended March 31, 2005 to March 31, 2009.

We sent 264 surveys to agencies and received 139 responses. We asked the agencies to tell us their satisfaction with our work as it relates to the following four areas:

- ◆ our planned work for the agency met its needs and that we carried out our work according to the plan (responsiveness)
- ◆ our employees were knowledgeable and carried out their work professionally and courteously (professionalism)
- ◆ our reports to the agency’s Minister were understandable, fair, and accurate (reports)
- ◆ our recommendations to the agency were feasible and result in proper management of public resources and accountability (recommendations)

**Exhibit 7**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Responsiveness	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	satisfied	satisfied
Professionalism	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied
Reports	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied
Recommendations	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied	very satisfied

As set out in Exhibit 7, agencies are satisfied with our performance. Although we are pleased with the results for the 53% of the surveys that were returned, we are concerned that we do not know the level of satisfaction for the other 47%. We will continue to encourage agencies to respond.

## **Completion of our work**

We measure our success in achieving goals 2 and 3 by completing the work that is set out in our business and financial plan by established deadlines.

We completed most of the work set out in our *2009 Business and Financial Plan*. We completed our 2008 Report – Volumes 1, 2, and 3 to the Legislative Assembly. We also reported our audit conclusions, findings, and recommendations to each government agency.

We could not complete some of the work set out in our *2009 Business and Financial Plan* because of delays in receiving information from some government agencies.

We continue to be concerned about the timeliness of our reports to government agencies. When our work is late, government agencies have difficulty meeting their established deadlines. Also, they do not have the benefit of our advice to improve their management systems and practices.

We track the timeliness of our reports to government agencies. The planned dates are the dates that we agreed to provide our reports to government agencies. The reports include our assurance on the financial statements of government agencies and our advice on improving the agencies' financial management processes.

We provided 78% of our reports to government agencies by the agreed on dates (2008 – 76%). Though we note improvement in our timeliness, we continue to work on improving our performance in this area. As mentioned above, our survey of government agencies show that agencies are satisfied with our work as it relates to responsiveness.

## **Costs of our work**

Our performance indicator for the costs of our work is the planned costs set out in our *2009 Business and Financial Plan*. Our performance target is to complete the work within the planned costs.

Pages 48 to 51 show our actual costs for examining government agencies for years ending in the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 compared with our planned costs. We had the actual cost information audited. On page 47, the auditor reported that the information is reliable.

We completed most of our work within our planned costs. We explain significant differences between planned and actual costs on page 56.

## **Our efficiency in the use of our resources**

We use two performance indicators for our efficiency in using our resources. We want to show that we are finding better ways to do our work. These indicators are our request for resources from the Assembly and how we manage our largest cost – salaries.

Each year, we prepare a detailed work plan to carry out our responsibilities under *The Provincial Auditor Act* and a forecast of the cost of that plan (see pages 48 to 49). For Exhibit 8, our request for resources is the forecast cost of our plan.

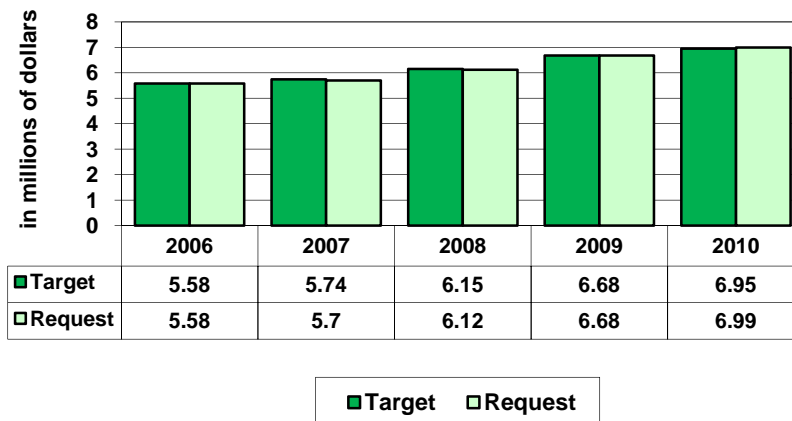
In our business plans for 2006 to 2010, we stated that we would absorb inflationary increases except for general salary and benefit increases that the Government gives to public servants. These targets do not include the net costs to audit agencies the Government creates or winds up.

Each year, the Government adds new government agencies that increase our workload and winds up government agencies that reduce our workload. These changes to our workload affect our costs. Our business and financial plans provide lists of the new and wound-up government agencies and their impact on our costs.

Exhibit 8 shows our targets and actual requests for resources for the last five years. The exhibit shows our actual requests were equal to or lower than our target each year except for 2010. In 2010 our request was about \$40,000 more than our target as it included some market adjustments for salaries.

**Exhibit 8**

**Target and Actual Request for Resources  
to carry out our work**



To manage our largest cost (salaries), we expect to use our employees' time according to our planned times set out in our *2009 Business and Financial Plan*.

Pages 53 to 55 show the actual use of our employee's time compared with our planned use. The actual information for 2007, 2008, and 2009 is audited. Our auditor reported on page 52 that the information is reliable.

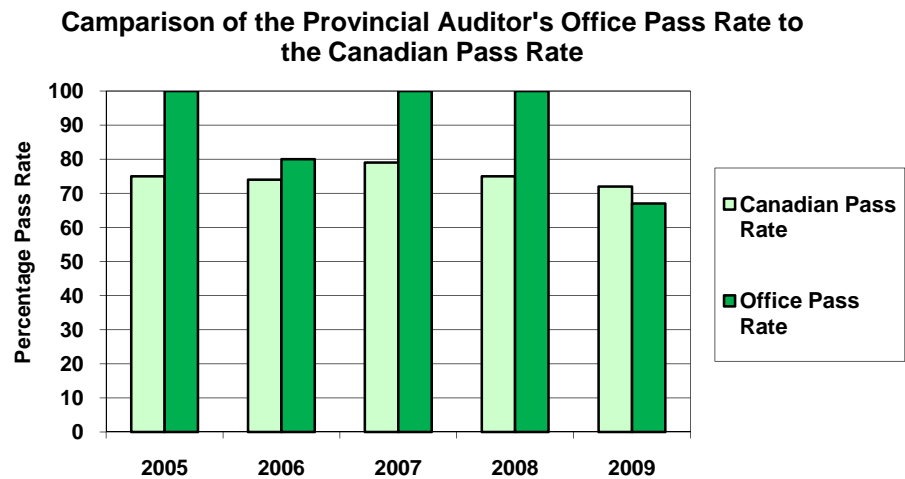
For the most part during 2009, we used our employees' time as planned. On page 56, we explain significant differences between planned and actual time.

## Developing trained professionals

We are a training office for people who want to become professional accountants. One of our measures of success is the number of employees who pass the uniform final examinations to become Chartered Accountants. Our performance target is to exceed the national pass rate.

Exhibit 9 shows the percentage of our employees who passed the uniform final examinations for each of the last five years compared to the Canadian pass rate.

Exhibit 9



The exhibit shows our pass rate exceeds the national pass rate for four of the last five years.

We also train staff who want to become Certified Management Accountants (CMA) or Certified General Accountants (CGA).

## Employees' satisfaction with their working environment

We want our employees to have a good working environment. We survey employees on satisfaction annually. The survey provides employees an opportunity to express their level of satisfaction with 13 key indicators of the Office's working environment.

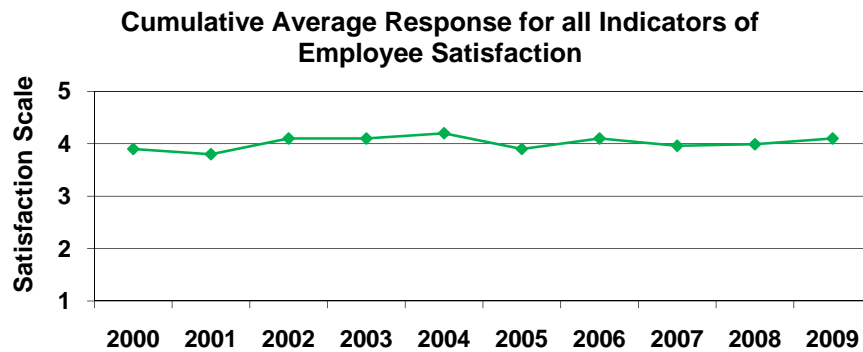
We have surveyed employees for 16 years. For 2009, 81% of staff responded to the survey (2008 - 90%). The survey results continue to show a positive level of satisfaction with the Office's working environment. Our survey uses a rating scale of one through five where five is the most

positive response. This year, the survey results had an average response of four for all of the indicators.

Exhibit 10 shows the 10 year trend for the average response for all indicators. Our performance target is that employees are satisfied with their working environment. The exhibit shows employee satisfaction has increased very slightly over the past year.

For 2009, we had the results for this performance target audited. The auditor reported that the performance information is reliable. We include the auditor's report and schedule on pages 57 to 60.

**Exhibit 10**



## **Our stakeholders need assurance on our performance**

The Assembly requires an audit of our Office. The auditor has the same audit responsibilities as our Office. We use the auditor's reports on our Office as key indicators of our success. Our performance target is that the auditor reports positively on the reliability of our financial statements, our compliance with *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the adequacy of our financial management systems and practices, and the reliability of one of our key non-financial indicators per year. In 2009, eight of our non-financial indicators were audited.

In this report, we provide the Assembly with the auditor's reports. On pages 38, 64, and 65, the auditor reports that our financial statements are reliable, we complied with the Act, and we had adequate financial management systems and practices. Also, on page 57, the auditor reports that our performance information for Goal 1 and Goal 3, Objectives 1, 3 and 4 are reliable. On page 66, the auditor reports that there are no significant matters to report to the Assembly.



## Financial Highlights

### Discussion and analysis of our financial affairs

This discussion and analysis should be read with our audited financial statements on pages 39 to 46.

For 2009, we requested an appropriation of \$6,677,000 and a contingency appropriation of \$438,000 from the Assembly. Our 2009 Business and Financial Plan includes a discussion of the amounts requested.

Our discussion and analysis includes explanations of significant variances. We analyze expenses compared to the prior year. We also analyze expenses compared to budget.

Total operating expenses of \$6,610,000 for 2009 were about \$311,000 more than 2008. The increase relates primarily to increases in salary and benefit costs and agent and advisory services partially offset by decreases in administration expenses.

Salary and benefit costs increased by \$138,000 in 2009 compared to 2008. The increase in 2009 reflects our response to salary and benefit increases planned by the Government for its employees. The Government gave its employees a general salary increase of 4.0% effective April 1, 2008. We also provided our employees a general salary increase of 4.0% effective April 1, 2008.

Agent and advisory services increased by \$210,000 in 2009 compared to 2008. In 2009, we had 56 salaried staff compared to 58 in 2008. As a result, we required assistance from three contracted staff<sup>1</sup> compared to one contracted staff in 2008.

Administration expenses decreased by \$62,000 compared to 2008. In 2009, computer leasing costs decreased by \$14,000. Audit travel costs decreased by \$35,000 because we used contract staff located outside of Regina for some of the audit work our staff usually travel to. In addition, fewer on-site visits were required for some out of Regina audits decreasing audit travel costs in 2009.

Our total operating expenses were \$78,000 less than anticipated in our 2009 budget. The decrease relates to decreases in salaries, benefits, and

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<sup>1</sup> Contracted staff refer to those individuals that work for us temporarily to assist us with peak work periods.

administration expenses partially offset by increases in agent and advisory services.

Our 2009 budget anticipated an increase in our costs for salaries and benefits because we needed the resources to examine new agencies created by the Government and to respond to salary pressures. We planned to use 58 salaried staff and 2 contracted staff in 2009 for a total workforce of 60 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. As described above, we maintained 56 salaried staff and 3 contracted staff. The difference in our budget and actual costs for salary, benefits, and agent and advisory services show this change.

Administration expenses were \$45,000 less than budgeted due mainly to decreased audit travel costs as described above.

The transfer to the General Revenue Fund of \$496,000 includes the return of unused appropriations and other revenue as required by *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

The cost of our work is directly influenced by the types and amount of revenue and expense of the Government, the number of government agencies, the quality of the Government's records, the co-operation that we receive, and changing professional standards. Based on the information we knew about these factors at October 31, 2008, our request for resources from the Assembly for 2010 is \$6,985,000 and \$463,000 for a contingency appropriation. Our 2010 Business and Financial Plan includes a discussion of the amounts requested.

The Legislative Assembly expects all Government agencies to provide a list of persons who have received money. Pages 84 and 85 show a list of persons who provided goods and services to the Office. The information in the list is similar to the information reported for government agencies in Volume II of the Public Accounts.

## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements, included in the Annual Report on Operations of the Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan for the year ended March 31, 2009, are the responsibility of management of the Office. Management has prepared the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Management is responsible for the reliability and integrity of the financial statements and other information contained in the Annual Report on Operations. The financial information presented elsewhere in this annual report is consistent with that in the financial statements.

To ensure the relevance and reliability of the financial data, management maintains a comprehensive system of internal controls including an appropriate code of conduct, written policies and procedures, and an organizational structure that segregates duties. These measures provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded and executed in compliance with legislation and required authority, that assets are properly safeguarded, and that reliable financial records are maintained. The Office's processes for safeguarding public resources, preparing reliable financial reports, and compliance with legislation have been audited by the firm of Virtus Group LLP. Their reports to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, stating the scope of their examinations and opinions on the Office's management processes and compliance with the legislation, appear on pages 64 and 65.

Virtus Group LLP audited the financial statements. Their report to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, stating the scope of their examination and their opinion on the financial statements, appears on page 38.



Fred Wendel, CMA, CA  
Provincial Auditor



Brian Atkinson, FCA  
Assistant Provincial Auditor

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly  
of Saskatchewan

We have audited the statement of financial position of the Office of the Provincial Auditor as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of operations, change in net debt, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office of the Provincial Auditor. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office of the Provincial Auditor as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

*Vintus Group LLP*

Chartered Accountants

**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As at March 31  
(thousands of dollars)**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 658	\$ 394
Accounts receivable	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>660</u>	<u>395</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	111	87
Accrued vacation pay	67	64
Due to the General Revenue Fund	<u>482</u>	<u>244</u>
	<u>660</u>	<u>395</u>
<b>Net debt</b>	---	---
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	93	95
Prepaid expense	<u>84</u>	<u>58</u>
	<u>177</u>	<u>153</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>	<u>\$ 177</u>	<u>\$ 153</u>

(See accompanying notes)

**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
For the Year Ended March 31  
(thousands of dollars)**

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>
	<u>Budget</u> (Note 5)	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
General Revenue Fund			
- Appropriation	\$ 6,677	\$ 6,677	\$ 6,124
- Contingency appropriation	438	438	392
Other (Note 6)	<u>24</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>
Total revenue	<u>7,139</u>	<u>7,130</u>	<u>6,542</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
Salaries	4,479	4,351	4,264
Employee benefits (Note 7)	772	756	705
Administration	581	536	598
Rent of space and equipment	373	367	365
Agent and advisory services	323	429	219
Training and development	<u>160</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>148</u>
Total operating expense	6,688	6,610	6,299
Transfer to General Revenue Fund (Note 8)	<u>462</u>	<u>496</u>	<u>267</u>
Total expense	<u>7,150</u>	<u>7,106</u>	<u>6,566</u>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>\$ (11)</u>	24	(24)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year		<u>153</u>	<u>177</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b>		<u>\$ 177</u>	<u>\$ 153</u>

(See accompanying notes)

**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR  
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT  
For the Year Ended March 31  
(thousands of dollars)**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	\$ 24	\$ (24)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(72)	(75)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Acquisition of prepaid expense	(84)	(58)
Use of prepaid expense	<u>58</u>	<u>79</u>
	<u>(26)</u>	<u>21</u>
<b>(Increase) decrease in net debt</b>	---	---
Net financial assets (debt), beginning of year	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
<b>Net debt, end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ ---</u></u>	<u><u>\$ ---</u></u>

(See accompanying notes)

**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Year Ended March 31  
(thousands of dollars)**

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Operating transactions</b>		
Cash received from:		
General Revenue Fund		
Appropriation	\$ 6,677	\$ 6,124
Contingency appropriation	438	392
Fees and other	<u>14</u>	<u>33</u>
	<u>7,129</u>	<u>6,549</u>
Cash paid for:		
Salaries	4,347	4,297
Supplies and other	<u>2,446</u>	<u>2,153</u>
	<u>6,793</u>	<u>6,450</u>
Cash provided by operating transactions	<u>336</u>	<u>99</u>
<b>Capital transactions</b>		
Cash used to acquire tangible capital assets	<u>(72)</u>	<u>(75)</u>
Cash applied to capital transactions	<u>(72)</u>	<u>(75)</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash</b>	264	24
Cash, beginning of year	<u>394</u>	<u>370</u>
Cash, end of year (Note 3)	<u>\$ 658</u>	<u>\$ 394</u>

(See accompanying notes)



**OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
For the Year Ended March 31, 2009**

**1. General Information**

*The Provincial Auditor Act* establishes the Office of the Provincial Auditor. The Office is part of the Legislative Branch of Government. The Office:

- examines the administration of government programs and activities carried out by government ministries, health and education institutions, commissions, boards, and Crown corporations
- reports the results of examinations to the Legislative Assembly and the public
- helps the Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies in their review of the Provincial Auditor's reports, the Public Accounts, and other reports

**2. Summary of Accounting Policies**

The Office uses Canadian generally accepted accounting principles appropriate for the public sector to prepare its financial statements. The following accounting principles are considered to be significant.

**(a) Revenue**

The appropriation from the General Revenue Fund is recorded when receivable.

Other revenue is recognized on the basis of the percentage of work completed for those government agencies that have signed contracts to pay fees or have otherwise agreed to pay fees.

**(b) Tangible Capital Assets**

Tangible capital assets are reported at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis at rates based on estimated useful lives of the tangible capital assets as follows:

Computer hardware	3 years
Computer software	3 years
Furniture (desks, file cabinets)	10 years
Other furniture	5 years
Other equipment	3 years

**3. Cash**

Cash consists of interest-bearing money on deposit with the bank. The interest rates range from nil to 2.25% during the year.

**4. Tangible Capital Assets**

The recognition and measurement of tangible capital assets is based on their service potential. These assets will not provide resources to discharge liabilities of the Office.

	2009 (000's)			2008 (000's)
	Hardware & Software	Furniture & Equipment	Total	Total
Opening costs	\$ 393	\$ 272	\$ 665	\$ 661
Additions during the year	56	16	72	75
Disposals during the year	6	11	17	70
Closing cost	443	277	720	666
Opening accumulated amortization	343	227	570	563
Annual amortization	59	15	74	78
Disposals	6	11	17	70
Closing accumulated amortization	396	231	627	571
Net book value	\$ 47	\$ 46	\$ 93	\$ 95

Annual amortization is included in Administration expense in the Statement of Operations.

**5. Budget**

The Budget is the General Revenue Fund appropriation requested from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to discharge the Provincial Auditor's duties under *The Provincial Auditor Act*. The Committee recommended appropriations of \$7,115,000. The Budget included on Statement 2 is presented on the expense basis of accounting.

The Budget is requested using an expenditure basis of accounting where non-financial assets acquired in the period are recorded as expenditures. The 2009 Budget and Actual using the expenditure basis of accounting are as follows:

	<b>2009</b>	
	<b>(000's)</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
General Revenue Fund:		
Appropriation	\$ 6,677	\$ 6,677
Contingency appropriation	438	438
Other	<u>24</u>	<u>15</u>
Total revenue	<u>7,139</u>	<u>7,130</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries	4,479	4,351
Employee benefits	772	756
Administration	570	550
Rent of space and equipment	373	367
Agent and advisory services	323	429
Training and development	<u>160</u>	<u>181</u>
Total operating expenditure	6,677	6,634
Transfer to General Revenue Fund	<u>462</u>	<u>496</u>
Total expenditure	<u>7,139</u>	<u>7,130</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditure</b>	<u>\$ ---</u>	<u>\$ ---</u>

**6. Other Revenue**

*The Provincial Auditor Act* requires that all fees charged and other revenues received by the Office be deposited to the General Revenue Fund. The transfer to the General Revenue Fund of \$496,389 (2008 - \$267,285) includes fees and other revenues of \$15,088 (2008 - \$26,488). See Note 8.

**7. Pension Plan**

The Office participates in a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. The Office's financial obligation to the plan is limited to making regular payments of 7.1% of employees' salaries for current service. The Office's annual pension expense for 2009 was \$289,007 (2008 - \$287,480).

**8. Transfer to General Revenue Fund**

*The Provincial Auditor Act* requires that all fees charged and other revenues received by the Office be deposited to the General Revenue Fund. The Act also requires that any unspent appropriations be returned to the General Revenue Fund. The \$496,389 transfer (2008 - \$267,285) includes fees, other revenues, and the Office's unspent appropriations.

**9. Financial Instruments**

The Office's financial instruments include accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued vacation payable. The carrying amount of these instruments approximates fair value due to their immediate or short-term maturity. These instruments have no significant interest rate and credit risk.

**10. Commitments**

During the year ended March 31, 2002, the Office and its landlord made a new lease whereby the Office agreed to rent the premises for ten years commencing April 1, 2002. Annual lease payments are \$329,678 before escalation adjustments.

The Office is also committed to make future annual payments for operating leases and professional service contracts of:

<b>Year ending</b>		<b>Amount</b>
<b>March 31</b>		<b>(000's)</b>
2010	\$	103
2011	\$	8

## Supporting Schedules and Reports

### AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly  
of Saskatchewan

We have audited the Schedule of Actual Costs to Audit Government Agencies for the period as described in note 1, which is prepared in accordance with accounting principles as set out in the notes to the schedule of financial information. This schedule of financial information is the responsibility of the Office of the Provincial Auditor. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards for assurance engagements established by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial information. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial information.

In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the actual costs to audit government agencies for the period as described in note 1 in accordance with the accounting principles set out in the notes to the schedule of financial information.

*Virtus Group LLP*

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Chartered Accountants

**Office of the Provincial Auditor  
Schedule of Actual Costs to Audit Government Agencies**

Government Agency	2009		2010
	Planned Costs (Note 5)	Actual Costs	Planned Costs (Note 5)
		(\$ Thousands)	
Executive Council	\$ 17	\$ 37	\$ 18
Information Technology Office	98	86 *	104
Legislative Assembly	74	87 *	77
Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour	788	657 * (1)	792
Ministry of Agriculture	273	286 *	299
Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing	95	101 *	125
Ministry of Education	184	184 *	258
Ministry of Energy and Resources	133	93 *	141
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	42	37	45
Ministry of Environment	165	174 *	204
Ministry of Finance	832	797 *	935
Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations	52	47	53
Ministry of Government Services	122	119 *	98
Ministry of Health	912	769 * (2)	1,024
Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure	125	104 *	95
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs	16	10	15
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General	220	251 *	258
Ministry of Municipal Affairs	99	108 *	105
Ministry of Social Services	185	199	237
Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport	185	209 *	198
Office of the Provincial Secretary	16	12	15
Public Service Commission	94	96 *	50
Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan	109	100 *	168
Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan	57	14 *	18
Saskatchewan Development Fund Corporation	5	3	5
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation	111	147 *	75
Saskatchewan Government Growth Fund Management Corporation	23	21 *	28
Saskatchewan Government Insurance Corporation	80	81 *	110
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority	354	352 *	234
Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation	7	6	8
Saskatchewan Power Corporation	79	66 *	101
Saskatchewan Research Council	133	127 *	116
Saskatchewan Safety Council	20	27 *	21
Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation	129	100 *	78
Saskatchewan Transportation Company	16	14 *	9
Saskatchewan Water Corporation	16	16	18
SaskEnergy Incorporated	64	72 *	73
Workers' Compensation Board	80	73 *	54
Government Wide, Sectoral and Special Issue Work	161	152 *	185
Legislative Committees & Public Reports	506	429 * (3)	538
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,677</b>	<b>\$6,263</b>	<b>\$6,985</b>

(see accompanying notes)

**Office of the Provincial Auditor  
Schedule of Actual Costs to Audit Government Agencies  
(continued)**

Government Agency	2009		2010
	Planned Costs (Note 5)	Actual Costs	Planned Costs (Note 5)
		(\$ Thousands)	
* Costs remaining to complete audits not complete at March 31, 2009	--	521	--
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$6,677</u>	<u>\$6,784</u>	<u>\$6,985</u>

(see accompanying notes)

In Part I of our discussion and analysis, on page 56, we discuss footnotes (1) to (3).

**Office of the Provincial Auditor  
Notes to the Schedule of Actual Costs to Audit Government Agencies**

**1. Purpose**

This schedule shows the Office's actual costs, up to March 31, 2009, of auditing the various agencies of the Government for their years ending in the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 compared to the planned costs for that period. The schedule also shows the planned costs for auditing the various agencies of the Government for their years ending in the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

**2. Definitions**

The following definitions are provided to help understand our cost allocation policies.

**Total Costs** - This is the total operating expenditure reported in our audited financial statements (see page 45).

**Audit hour** - This is the time employees spend on the audits set out in the detailed work plans in our Business and Financial Plans.

**Cost-per-hour** - This is the hourly rate for an audit hour for each employee as set by the Office (See Note 3).

**Direct costs** - These are costs other than salaries that are directly related to specific audits (e.g. employees' travel costs).

**Actual costs** - These costs are determined by multiplying employees' audit hours times employees' costs-per-hour and adding to that result direct costs.

**Average cost-per-audit hour** - This is the total costs for the year less direct costs divided by the total audit hours for all employees for the year.

**3. Cost Allocation Policies**

The Office allocates its total costs each year to the audits carried out during the year. Direct costs are charged directly to the relevant audit. For all other costs, the Office uses reported audit hours set out in employee time sheets as the basis of allocation.

The cost-per-hour is based on the employee's pay and benefits and a portion of other costs (rent, office administration, and support services) allocated based on the office's



expected time on audit activities. The cost-per-hour is adjusted periodically to reflect changing employee and office-wide circumstances.

The reported actual costs for each audit in the Schedule is determined by multiplying employees' audit hours for the relevant audit times the employees' costs-per-hour and adding to that result direct costs for that audit.

**4. Additional Information**

The Office's actual average cost-per-hour for 2009 is \$101.89 (2008 - \$95.27).

The Office's total actual direct costs for 2009 are \$111,688 (2008 - \$172,543).

The footnotes in the Schedule reference to the Management Discussion and Analysis on page 56. That information is unaudited.

Government agencies have various fiscal year ends (e.g., March 31, June 30, December 31). Due to the nature of auditing, some audit activity occurs before the government agencies' fiscal year ends; while other audit activity occurs after their year ends. As a result, employees' audit activities during our fiscal year relate to more than one fiscal year of a government agency.

**5. Planned Costs**

The planned costs set out in the Schedule are those presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Office's 2009 Business and Financial Plan and 2010 Business and Financial Plan.

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

We have audited the Schedule of Actual Time Employees Spend on Tasks for the year ended March 31, 2009, which is prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the notes to the schedule of statistical information. This schedule of statistical information is the responsibility of the Office of the Provincial Auditor. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards for assurance engagements established by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the statistical information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statistical information. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the statistical information.

In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the actual time employees spend on tasks for the year ended March 31, 2009, in accordance with the accounting principles set out in the notes to the schedule of statistical information.

*Virtus Group LLP*

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Chartered Accountants

**Office of the Provincial Auditor  
Schedule of Actual Time Employees Spend on Tasks  
for the Period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2009**

<b>Employee time</b>	<b>Actual</b>			<b>Planned</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Working hours	84%	83%	85%	85%	84%
Vacation leave and statutory holidays	14%	15% <sup>1</sup>	13% <sup>1</sup>	13% <sup>1</sup>	14%
Sick leave	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
<b>Total paid hours</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Working hours tasks					
Audits	69% <sup>2</sup>	67%	67%	68%	68%
Support services	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%
Office administration	12%	13%	13%	12%	12%
Training	7% <sup>2</sup>	8%	8%	9%	9%
<b>Total work hours</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total full time equivalent positions</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

(see accompanying notes)

In Part II of our discussion and analysis, on page 56, we discuss footnotes (1) to (2).

**Office of the Provincial Auditor  
Notes to the Schedule of Actual Time Employees Spend on Tasks  
for the Year Ended March 31, 2009**

**1. Purpose**

This schedule shows employee tasks and the percentage of time that employees spent on these tasks. The schedule shows actual percentages for the years ended March 31, 2007 to March 31, 2009. The schedule also shows planned percentages for these tasks for the years ended March 31, 2009 and 2010.

**2. Definitions**

Working hours – This is the time available after deducting vacation leave, statutory holidays, and sick leave.

Vacation leave and statutory holidays – Employees receive paid vacation leave. Leave is based on years of service. Employees also receive 12 paid statutory holidays.

Sick leave – Employees receive paid sick leave. The amount of paid leave is based on years of service.

Total paid hours – This is the total of working hours, vacation leave and statutory holidays, and sick leave. Employees must account for a minimum of 1950 total paid hours per year to receive full pay.

Audit hours – This is the time employees spend on the audits set out in the Detailed Work Plan on pages 48 and 49. Audit hours does not include the time spent on support services, office administration, and training.

Support services – This is the time employees spend on accounting, computer maintenance and support, and other administrative support.

Office administration – This is time employees spend on human resource activities, internal committees and working groups, office-wide and group planning activities, and time that does not fall within any other working hours task category.

Training – This is time employees spend on staff development courses and seminars. The time includes both employee attendance time and instructor time when our employees instruct our internal courses.

Full-time equivalent positions – This represents the total paid months divided by twelve months.

**3. Time Allocation Policies**

Employees are required to record on timecards actual time spent on each task to the nearest quarter hour. The employees' supervisors approve the employees' timecards. The Office uses the information from the timecards to pay employees and to monitor employees' performance. The Office also uses this information to determine the actual costs to audit government agencies.

**4. Planned Time**

The percentages of planned time for 2009 set out in the Schedule are those presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Office's *2009 Business and Financial Plan*. The percentages of planned time for 2010 set out in the Schedule are those presented to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the Office's *2010 Business and Financial Plan*.

## Discussion and Analysis

### Part I – Schedule of Actual Costs to Audit Government Agencies

Explanation of differences between actual costs and planned costs more than \$60,000.

- (1) **Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour** – Our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$131,000 less than planned. To complete all of our work would cost a further \$ 83,000. As a result, our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$48,000 less than planned. Our costs to audit the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission were \$18,000 less than planned because its operations were smaller than expected. Our costs to audit the University of Regina were \$13,000 less than planned due to improved internal controls and fewer financial statement issues. In addition, the University of Saskatchewan no longer required a compliance audit for one of its agreements decreasing our costs by \$9,000.
- (2) **Ministry of Health** – Our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$143,000 less than planned. To complete all of our work would cost a further \$ 110,000. As a result, our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$33,000 less than planned. Our costs to audit the regional health authorities were \$36,000 less than planned due to no new issues and fewer issues requiring research.
- (3) **Legislative Committees and Public Reports** – Our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$77,000 less than planned. To complete all of our work would cost a further \$3,000. As a result, our 2009 actual costs are approximately \$74,000 less than planned. In 2009, fewer staff attended Legislative Committee meetings than originally planned reducing our costs by \$29,000. Our costs to prepare and publish our 2009 reports were \$45,000 less than planned.

### Part II Schedule of Actual Time Employees Spend on Tasks

Explanations of statistical differences in the use of employee time.

1. Our vacation leave and statutory holidays are similar to those provided to employees in the public service. 2008 reflects one more statutory holiday (Easter) for the period. In 2008, staff were encouraged to take their unused vacation entitlements from previous years. 2009 reflects one less statutory holiday (Easter) for the period.
2. Time spent on audits increased during 2007 due to special investigations and additional audits not known when time allocation was originally planned. As a result, some management and specialist training was deferred.

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

We have audited the Schedule of Performance Information for Eight Performance Indicators of the Office of the Provincial Auditor reporting management's progress in achieving its stated objectives and performance targets for the year ended March 31, 2009, which is prepared in accordance with the reporting principles set out on page 58. The Schedule is the responsibility of the Office of the Provincial Auditor. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Schedule based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards for assurance engagements established by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the information and related disclosures. An audit also includes assessing the reporting principles used and significant judgments made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the information.

In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the Office of the Provincial Auditor's progress towards achieving stated objectives and performance targets in accordance with the above reporting principles.

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

*Vinters Group LLP*

Chartered Accountants

**MANAGEMENT'S REPRESENTATION  
ON THE SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION  
FOR EIGHT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

We prepared the performance information in accordance with the following principles:

The performance information is relevant. It is related to stated objectives and performance targets and enables an assessment of our progress towards achieving the objectives and targets. It shows how we achieved the results and how we measured our progress towards the performance targets.

The performance information is reliable. It is based on data that are accurate, complete, and available over a long period of time and at a reasonable cost. It is derived from data that is fair and unbiased and capable of being replicated by independent and knowledgeable observers.

The performance information is understandable. It provides the level of detail needed to enable a proper understanding of performance and is limited to a key set of performance measures that are comparable over time and aggregated at appropriate and meaningful levels.



Fred Wendel, CMA, CA  
Provincial Auditor



Brian Atkinson, FCA  
Assistant Provincial Auditor

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan



## Schedule of Performance Information For Eight Performance Indicators For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

**Goal 1:**

Foster well-managed Government

**Objectives:**

- 1.1 Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's accountability to the Assembly.
- 1.2 Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's processes to achieve intended results.

Target	Result	Discussion
--------	--------	------------

**Measure:** The Government's action on our recommendations that do not involve major changes.

80% of our recommendations that do not involve major changes are acted on	87%  (2008 – 91%)	We achieved our target.  The results for 2009 are based on all recommendations that are more than one year old and do not involve major changes made in the period April 2004 to March 2009.
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**Measure:** The Government's action on our recommendations that involve major changes.

80% of our recommendations that involve major changes are acted on	95%  (2008 – 92%)	We achieved our target.  The results for 2009 are based on all recommendations that are more than five years old and involve major changes made in the period April 1999 to March 2009.
--	-------------------------	---

**Measure:** The Legislative Assembly's acceptance of our recommendations.

90% of our recommendations that are considered by the Legislative Assembly are accepted	99%  (2008 – 99%)	We achieved our target.  The results for 2009 are based on all our recommendations made in the period April 2004 to March 2009 and reported on by the Standing Committees on Public Accounts and Crown and Central Agencies.
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**Annual Report on Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2009**

**Goal 3:**

Manage our business effectively

**Objectives:**

- 3.1 Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.
- 3.2 We continuously improve our work.
- 3.3 We embrace our guiding principles

Target	Result	Discussion
--------	--------	------------

**Measure:** Agencies' responses to post-audit satisfaction questionnaires.

Agencies are satisfied with our work	Agencies are satisfied  (2008 – Agencies are satisfied)	We achieved our target.  During the period April 2004 to March 2009 we sent 264 surveys to agencies and received 139 responses. Overall, agencies continue to tell us they are satisfied with our work as it relates to the following four areas: responsiveness, professionalism, reports, and recommendations.
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**Measure:** Our students' success in professional accounting programs.

Exceed the national pass rate	National 72% Our students 67%  (2008 – National 75% Our students 100%)	We did not achieve our target.  In the last 5 years, 2009 was the only year we did not achieve our target.
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**Measure:** Practice inspection reports from Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan (ICAS).

Positive report from ICAS practice inspector	Positive report received in 2009	We achieved our target.
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**Measure:** Peer review report from Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA).

Positive report from CCOLA	Positive report received in 2009	We achieved our target.
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**Measure:** Employee responses to corporate culture surveys.

Employees are satisfied with our working environment	Employees are satisfied  (2008 – Employees are satisfied)	We achieved our target.  The results for 2009 are based on an annual employee survey. Employees express satisfaction with 13 key indicators of the Office's working environment.
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## Inspection Report

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan  
3621 Pasqua Street Regina, SK S4S 6W8  
Tel 306 359.1010 Fax 306 569.8288  
www.icas.sk.ca



January 27, 2009

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Fred Wendel, CA, CMA  
Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan  
1920 Broad St., Ste. 1500  
REGINA, SK S4P 3V2

Dear Mr. Wendel:

Re: Practice Inspection # 2008090024

As a follow up to the inspection of your office on January 22, 2009, I am pleased to report that there were no reportable findings.

My report will be reviewed by the Practice Appraisal Committee at their next meeting. A final report will be sent to you after it has been considered by the committee.

I thank you for the co-operation and courtesy extended during the visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Erickson', written in a cursive style.

Gary Erickson, FCA  
Director of Practice Inspection



Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan  
3621 Pasqua Street Regina, SK S4S 6W8  
Tel 306 359.1010 Fax 306 569.8288  
www.icas.sk.ca



March 31, 2009

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Fred Wendel, CA, CMA  
Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan  
1920 Broad St., Ste. 1500  
REGINA, SK S4P 3V2

Dear Mr. Wendel:

PRACTICE INSPECTION FILE 2008090024

At their meeting of March 30, 2009 the Practice Appraisal Committee reviewed the file relating to the inspection of your practice office, which was completed January 22, 2009.

The Committee is pleased to advise that no further action is required with respect to this inspection.

The committee reminds you that inspections are carried out with the objective of determining if a member firm has policies, practices and procedures in place that would enable it to provide public accounting services in accordance with the standards of the profession. This is accomplished by reviewing responses to quality control questionnaires completed by the firm, by reviewing a selection of files and by discussion with partners of the firm.

The inspection process is not intended to provide any assurance on the files and financial statements (compiled, reviewed or audited) and reports thereon issued by the firm.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation extended to Mr. Erickson during his recent visit.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Hill', written over a white rectangular area.

William Hill  
Director of Regulatory Affairs  
Secretary to the Practice Appraisal Committee

# Peer Review Report



Office of the Auditor General of Canada  
Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada

January 20, 2009

Mr. Fred Wendel, CMA, CA  
Provincial Auditor  
Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan  
1500 Chateau Tower  
1920 Broad Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 3V2

Dear Mr. Wendel:

We have carried out the post-audit issuance quality assurance review of two financial statement audit files of your Office. Our work was carried out in accordance with the protocol of engagement for the inter-jurisdictional review signed on December 12, 2008.

The objective of this engagement was to conduct a post-audit issuance review for financial statement attest audits to issue a conclusion on compliance with generally accepted auditing standards of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA). The review criteria used are part of the review tools approved by the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA). These tools were established based on CICA standards and on issues deemed important by CCOLA. These review tools are the "Quality Assurance Guiding Principles" and the "Post-Audit Issuance Review Guides for Financial Statement Attest Audits.

In our opinion, the audit engagement examined was carried out, in all significant respects, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the CICA.

We have shared our observations with the person responsible for the engagement; however, these observations by no means affect the quality of the engagement examined, the work done, or the issuance of our conclusion on compliance with CICA professional standards. We also shared our observations on good practices.

In conclusion, we would like to thank your staff for their close co-operation throughout this review.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Pound, CA  
Director,  
Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Martin Ruben, CGA  
Director,  
Office of the Auditor General of Canada

cc: Angèle Borys, Principal, Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan

## **AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

### **Introduction**

We have audited the Office of the Provincial Auditor's control as of March 31, 2009 to express an opinion as to the effectiveness of its control related to the following objectives.

- To safeguard public resources. That is, to ensure its assets are not lost or used inappropriately; to ensure it does not inappropriately incur obligations; to establish a financial plan to achieve its goals; and to monitor and react to its progress towards the objectives established in its financial plan.
- To prepare reliable financial reports.
- To conduct its activities following laws, regulations and policies related to financial reporting, safeguarding public resources, revenue raising, spending, borrowing, and investing.

We used the control framework developed by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) to make our judgements about the effectiveness of the Office of the Provincial Auditor's control. We did not audit certain aspects of control concerning the effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of certain management decision-making processes.

The CICA defines control as comprising those elements of an organization that, taken together, support people in the achievement of the organization's objectives. Control is effective to the extent that it provides reasonable assurance that the organization will achieve its objectives reliably.

The Office of the Provincial Auditor's management is responsible for effective control related to the objectives described above. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the effectiveness of control based on our audit.

### **Scope**

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards for assurance engagements established by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to effectiveness of the Office of the Provincial Auditor's control related to the objectives stated above. An audit includes obtaining an understanding of the significant risks related to these objectives, the key control elements and control activities to manage these risks and examining, on a test basis, evidence relating to control.

### **Conclusion**

In our opinion, the Office of the Provincial Auditor's control was effective, in all material respects, related to the objectives stated above as of March 31, 2009 based on the CICA criteria of control framework.

### **Limitations**

Control can provide only reasonable not absolute assurance of achieving objectives reliably for two reasons. First, there are inherent limitations in control including judgement in decision-making, human error, collusion to circumvent control activities and management overriding control. Second, cost/benefit decisions are made when designing control in organizations. Because control can be expected to provide only reasonable assurance not absolute assurance, the objectives referred to above may not be achieved reliably. Also, projections of any evaluation of control to future periods are subject to the risk that control may become ineffective because of changes in internal and external conditions, or the degree of compliance with control activities may deteriorate.

*Virtus Group LLP*

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Chartered Accountants

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

We have made an examination to determine whether the Office of the Provincial Auditor complied with the provisions of the following legislative and related authorities pertaining to its financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, spending, revenue-raising, borrowing and investing activities during the year ended March 31, 2009:

*The Provincial Auditor Act*

Our examination was made in accordance with standards for assurance engagements established by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the Office of the Provincial Auditor has complied, in all material respects, with the provisions of the aforementioned legislative and related authorities during the year ended March 31, 2009.

*Virtus Group LLP*

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Chartered Accountants

## AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Re: Audit of the Office of the Provincial Auditor for the year ended March 31, 2009

We have completed the above noted audit and have issued our reports on the financial statements, internal controls and legislative compliance dated May 28, 2009.

In accordance with *The Provincial Auditor Act*, our responsibilities to report to the members of the legislative assembly also appear to include:

**To report matters that, in our judgement, are significant** (exceptions/deficiencies), if any, which may impact the annual financial statements and related controls.

This report is based only on matters assessed and relied upon for purposes of our audit opinions on the office's financial statements, internal controls and legislative compliance. This form of report is referred to as a derivative report, i.e. it is derived from the process, procedures, and findings related to the audit.

Based on the above noted reporting requirements, we provide the following observations:

Governance and Management Control

No reportable matters identified.

Systems Control

No reportable matters identified.

Financial Statement Presentation and Disclosure

No reportable matters identified.

Other Matters

No reportable matters identified.

Detailed findings and observations with respect to internal controls, and/or financial statement presentation and disclosure are discussed with the Office's management during the course of and completion of our work.

*Virtus Group LLP*

May 28, 2009  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Chartered Accountants



## Summary of Our 2005 – 2009 Strategic Plan

### Our goals and objectives

We have three goals. These are:

- ◆ foster well-managed government;
- ◆ encourage meaningful reporting by government; and
- ◆ manage our business effectively.

Pages 68 to 81 set out our goals and objectives for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2009 for pursuing our mission. We also set out our strategies and action plans to manage the risks that might prevent us from achieving our objectives.

Pages 82 to 83 include a glossary of terms and abbreviations used in our strategic plan.

The indicators we use to measure our success in achieving our goals and objectives and our performance targets for these indicators are set out on pages 13 to 15.

Goals	Objectives	General strategies
1. <b>Foster well-managed Government</b>	1. Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's accountability to the Assembly.	1. Work with significant agencies on their processes to strengthen the accountability of the government agencies they supervise. <hr/> 2. Encourage legislators to put in law sound accountability requirements for the Government starting in 2009. <hr/> 3. Advise legislators of the state of the Government's accountability to the Assembly. <hr/>

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**Action plans**

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1. Keep informed of and share changes in accountability processes in other jurisdictions.
2. Work with Finance and Health to build capacity for results-based management.
3. Work with the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC) to further the successful implementation of the balanced score card system.
4. Work with Finance, CIC, and Health to explain the importance of our assurance on key performance reports (plans and results).
5. Encourage the use of the key elements of sound planning and reporting for the overall Government and for significant agencies.
6. Encourage significant agencies to ensure accountability to the Assembly in their agreements with others they supervise.

- 
1. Advise legislators of new accountability legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.
  2. Promote the value of legislation to sustain accountability requirements.

- 
1. Report on accountability arrangements that present the Government with significant risks (e.g., municipal governments, school boards, non-government agencies, public private partnerships, intergovernmental agencies).
  2. Advise legislators of the impact of changes in key accountability arrangements to ensure they provide appropriate accountability to the Assembly.
  3. Assess the adequacy of accountability in key agreements.
  4. Provide input to the CICA on public sector accounting and auditing issues, and explain the impact to legislators, as needed.
  5. By 2005, report to legislators on the state of the Government's overall accountability to the Assembly compared with other Canadian jurisdictions.
-

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>General strategies</b>
<b>1. Foster well-managed Government</b>	2. Our stakeholders value our assurance and advice to strengthen the Government's processes to achieve intended results.	<hr/> <p>1. Evaluate the Government's processes to achieve planned results including its governance and risk management processes.</p> <hr/> <p>2. Assess the adequacy of the Government's processes to manage its human resources and infrastructure including information technology.</p> <hr/> <p>3. Assess the adequacy of the management of key intergovernmental and interagency programs and initiatives.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Advise legislators of the challenges in managing the key forces and trends affecting the Government.</p> <hr/>

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**Action plans**

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1. Examine the adequacy of the financial controls of government agencies.
  2. Examine compliance with authorities by government agencies.
  3. Examine the adequacy of processes used by the overall Government and significant agencies to manage key risks including delivery of services by other parties (e.g., school boards, non-government agencies).
- 
1. Assess whether significant agencies have the key elements of a sound human resource plan.
  2. Assess whether 2 significant agencies have adequate processes to implement succession plans.
  3. Each operating group will assess the adequacy of agencies' management of significant infrastructure (e.g., health facilities, highways, energy distribution systems).
  4. Assess the adequacy of controls for securing significant IT infrastructure (e.g. MIDAS, Community Net).
  5. Assess the adequacy of cross-government processes to implement key information technology elements (e.g. IT governance and security).
  6. Assess the adequacy of government agencies project management processes to implement significant systems.
- 
1. Assess the adequacy of processes to manage key intergovernmental and interagency programs.
  2. Assess whether significant agencies clearly set out adequate control expectations to the government agencies they supervise and have adequate controls to ensure expectations are carried out. (e.g. Health, Finance, CIC).
- 
1. Report on the financial condition of the Government to help explain the economic constraints faced by the Government.
  2. Encourage the Government to report on its assessment of its financial condition.
  3. Encourage the Government to report on the key challenges to our tax base resulting from the key forces and trends.
  4. Report on the key challenges faced by the Government:
    - In ensuring a professional public service for effective service delivery.
    - Resulting from the growing young Aboriginal population.
    - In ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment.
    - Resulting from the aging population.
    - Resulting from increasing retirements.
    - In managing the changing infrastructure needs resulting from rural depopulation.
-

Goals	Objectives	General strategies
<p><b>2. Encourage meaningful reporting by Government</b></p>	<p>1. The Government provides useful summary plans and results to the Assembly.</p>	<p>1. Encourage key officials to improve the summary performance plan and reporting of results to the Assembly.</p>
		<p>2. Report areas for improving the summary performance plan and reporting of results.</p>
	<p>2. Significant agencies report their plans and results to the Assembly.</p>	<p>1. Assess key performance reports of significant agencies and sectors.</p>
		<p>2. Encourage significant agencies to include our legislative compliance opinion and an audited report on their financial controls in their annual report starting in 2009.</p>

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**Action plans**

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1. Meet with key officials to discuss the benefits of improving summary performance plans and reporting of results.
  2. Offer advice on processes to build capacity to improve the summary performance plan and reporting of results.
- 

1. Starting in 2008, assess the summary performance plan and report of results against the CCAF reporting principles to identify areas for improvement.
  2. Monitor status of performance plans and reporting of results in other Canadian jurisdictions.
  3. Discuss with key officials and legislators the benefits of legislative committees reviewing the summary performance plan and reporting of results.
- 

1. Assess annual reports of all significant agencies against all key principles each year starting in 2007.
  2. Assess performance plans of significant agencies against all key principles every second year starting in 2007.
  3. Assess plans and results of sectors, within a year of the plans and results becoming public.
  4. Assess the guidance Finance, CIC, and Health provides to supervised agencies about key performance reports.
  5. Assess whether 4 significant agencies have the ability to collect and analyze reliable performance information.
  6. Encourage Finance to require Ministerial financial statements and then provide them to the Assembly starting in 2009.
- 

1. Work with Finance, CIC, and Health to encourage the inclusion of our legislative compliance opinion and an audited report on financial controls in the annual reports of agencies they supervise.
  2. Identify significant agencies currently reporting control.
  3. Discuss with government officials and legislators the benefits of including opinions on control in annual reports.
  4. Monitor reporting of control opinions in other jurisdictions.
  5. Monitor impact of changing standards related to reporting controls.
  6. Encourage significant agencies to include an assessment of the effectiveness of their controls in their annual report.
-

Goals	Objectives	General strategies
<p><b>2. Encourage meaningful reporting by Government</b></p>	<p>3. Our stakeholders value our timely assurance and advice on the Government's reports on plans and results.</p>	<p>1. Provide timely assurance on government agencies' financial reports.</p> <hr/> <p>2. Inform legislators of the benefits of providing assurance on government agencies' performance reports.</p> <hr/> <p>3. Encourage government agencies to seek our assurance on their performance reports.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Provide timely assurance on government agencies' performance reports for non-financial information.</p>
<p><b>3. Manage our business effectively</b></p>	<p>1. Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.</p>	<p>1. Ensure we have the resources and access to the competencies necessary to respond to the risks faced by our stakeholders.</p>



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**Action plans**

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1. Examine the reliability of the financial statements of the overall government and of all government agencies.
  2. Deliver our reports on the results of our work to government officials within the agreed upon time frame.
  3. Deliver timely public reports on the results of our work to the Legislative Assembly.
- 
1. Report on the benefits of providing assurance on significant agencies' performance reports.

- 
1. During the entry/exit meeting with significant agencies, encourage them to include an assurance report from our Office on their performance information.

- 
1. Examine the reliability of key non-financial indicators included in the performance reports of 4 significant agencies.
  2. Deliver our reports on the results of our work to government officials in the agreed upon time frame.
  3. Deliver timely public reports on the results of our work to the Legislative Assembly.
- 

1. Seek and monitor the views of our stakeholders on our plans and performance.
  2. Prepare our resource proposals based on how we plan to respond to our risks and the risks faced by our stakeholders.
  3. Clearly explain our resource proposals to PAC.
  4. Maintain a competency-based framework for human resource management.
  5. Maintain a sound human resource plan (including succession plan) that sets out required competencies and development plans.
  6. Hire, train, and contract as expected in our human resource plan.
  7. Use external experts as needed.
  8. Use employee development plans and performance assessments to ensure we possess and maintain the necessary competencies.
  9. Stimulate and support innovation.
-

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>General strategies</b>
<b>3. Manage our business effectively</b>	1. Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.	2. Provide relevant, reliable, and timely service at a reasonable cost.

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3. Maintain support for our recommendations.

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4. Communicate in a clear, accessible, and timely manner.

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**Action plans**

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1. Use a risk-based model to determine our work priorities.
  2. Discuss audit requirements with government agencies at entry/exit meetings and document agreed upon requirements in our audit planning memoranda.
  3. Complete audit work according to the audit planning memoranda. If necessary, explain any significant changes to the plan.
  4. Complete our work according to professional standards.
  5. Monitor our performance using feedback obtained from government agencies (e.g., Post Audit Questionnaires).
  6. Monitor our planned and actual costs and manage the impact of any significant differences.
  7. Maintain and monitor information about costs of similar service providers to benchmark our costs.
  8. Pay our staff based on market conditions.
  9. Determine the benefits of conducting audits with objectives focused on economy and efficiency.
- 
1. Ensure our reports clearly explain deficiencies, consequences, and resulting recommendations.
  2. Make clear presentations to boards, management, PAC, CCA, and the public.
  3. Monitor acceptance of our recommendations.
  4. Consider costs and benefits when making recommendations and set out recommendations in the context of key risks.
- 
1. Share written key communication policies with staff.
  2. Make our reports accessible to our stakeholders.
  3. Clearly explain our work and findings.
  4. Strengthen our presentation skills.
  5. Review current practice regarding timing and content of our public reports.
  6. Monitor content of our public web site to ensure information is current and relevant.
  7. Inform members of key legislative committees about the products and services that we deliver.
  8. Prepare and distribute to our stakeholders a summary pamphlet outlining our role and the products and services that we deliver.
-

Goals	Objectives	General strategies
3. <b>Manage our business effectively</b>	1. Our stakeholders understand and value what we do.	5. Maintain our independence and objectivity.
	2. We are leaders in key areas of legislative auditing.	1. Enhance our leadership in the areas of auditing financial reporting, financial controls, risks, accountability, and compliance with related authorities.
		2. Develop and maintain special knowledge in the many diverse and complex businesses the Government manages.
		3. Offer our advice and training programs to others.
		4. Maintain current and effective methodology.

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**Action plans**

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1. Promote the basic principles for legislative auditors (e.g., refer to CCOLA document).
  2. Explain our independence to our stakeholders.
  3. Identify and respond to initiatives that might affect our independence.
  4. Make staff aware of our need to be and appear to be independent (through objectivity policies).
  5. Develop and implement a policy for the rotation of key personnel on audits.
- 
1. Maintain and enhance our internal training program using CCOLA resources when appropriate.
  2. Pursue external training and development opportunities.
  3. Participate on provincial and national committees (e.g. CCOLA, CICA, ICAS, IIA).
  4. Keep our practices current by using our Practice Review Committee.
  5. Use quality control processes to maintain consistent practices.
  6. Monitor external organizations for risk management practices (e.g. Conference Board of Canada, CCAF, CICA, Australian Audit Office).
  7. Be responsive to the impact of potential changes in professional assurance standards for reporting on financial control.
  8. Seek opportunities, provincially and nationally, to make presentations and lead discussions in key areas of legislative auditing.
- 
1. Maintain relevant specialities.
  2. Ensure succession of key specialists on an ongoing basis.
  3. Enhance knowledge transfer for complex audits and key government functions.
  4. Allocate resources to enhance transfer of knowledge.
- 
1. Offer advice and training to our professional colleagues (CCOLA, appointed auditors).
  2. Offer advice and training program to government officials.
- 
1. Monitor and learn from our experiences and the practices of our professional colleagues.
  2. Challenge the status quo and ensure quality control .
  3. Support CCOLA's quality assurance process for ensuring the adequacy of our methodology.
  4. Encourage harmonization of methodology within CCOLA.
  5. Support CCOLA in promoting the participation of legislative audit offices in the requirements of the Canadian Public Accountability Board.
  6. Use the Professional Engagement Manual maintained by the CICA and CaseWare to document our audit work.
-

Goals	Objectives	General strategies
<b>3. Manage our business effectively</b>	2. We are leaders in key areas of legislative auditing.	5. Develop expertise in auditing performance management.
	3. We continuously improve our work.	1. Continue to strengthen and simplify our management information system.
		2. Continue to strengthen and simplify our administrative practices.
		3. Continue to strengthen and simplify how we plan, assess, and report our performance.
	4. We embrace our guiding principles.	1. We maintain a positive work environment.
		2. We maintain a healthy work environment.

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**Action plans**

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1. Monitor and learn from our experiences and the practices of our professional colleagues in other legislative audit offices.
  2. Encourage transfer of knowledge and skills for auditing performance management throughout Office.
  3. Support innovative audit approaches and sharing of experiences.
- 
1. Ensure internal information systems (e.g., information centre, Intranet, databases) are responsive to staff's needs.
  2. Improve the ability of staff to access our internal information when they are away from the office.
- 
1. Encourage staff to search for and share efficiencies.
  2. Acquire quality goods and services at the best prices.
  3. Improve the efficiency of preparing and issuing our reports.
- 
1. Prepare an annual business and financial plan.
  2. Use a risk-based model to determine our audit priorities.
  3. Continue to improve our risk-based model.
  4. Report publicly our plans and the extent to which we have achieved our plans.
  5. Continually assess the nature and scope of the assurances our auditor provides to legislators on our performance.
- 
1. Respond to concerns and trends identified in our corporate culture surveys of our staff.
  2. Use the performance management process to help ensure staff are adequately trained and provided with challenging and varied work.
  3. Enhance an exit interview process for staff leaving the Office.
  4. Promote two-way feedback on staff performance.
  5. Use appropriate communication methods to advise others of key information and decisions.
  6. Improve communication of Executive Committee's key decisions.
  7. Adjust workloads to facilitate a balance between work, home, and community.
- 
1. Address all recommendations of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OH&S) in a timely manner.
  2. Facilitate safe work practices as defined by the Office.
-

## Strategic Plan Glossary

**Accountability** – the ability to demonstrate responsible action and report performance in light of agreed-upon expectations.

**Action plans** – the activities, time lines, and resources to accomplish goals and objectives and to implement strategies. Our action plans are carried out annually during the four-year plan, except where a specific date is indicated. The costs of our action plans are reported annually to the Legislative Assembly in our Business and Financial Plan.

**Agency** – an entity of Government accountable for public money.

**Assembly** – the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

**Assurance** – the Provincial Auditor Saskatchewan issues a written communication expressing a conclusion concerning a subject matter for which an agency is responsible.

**Best practices** – professional procedures or actions that are efficient, economical, and effective in accomplishing the purpose intended. Best practices may meet or exceed generally accepted auditing standards or other minimum standards in creative ways using evolving technologies or new methods.

**Business plan** – an agency's planned operations for the fiscal year.

**CCOLA** – the Canadian Council of Legislative Officers is an organization devoted to sharing information and supporting the continued development of auditing methodology, practices and professional development in legislative auditing.

**Competency-based framework** – the framework used for human resource management and policy development that identifies the competencies necessary for our Office to be successful. Competencies are the elements our Office must know, be able to do, and attitudes we must possess.

**Control** – those elements of an agency (including its resources, systems, processes, culture, structure, and activities) that, taken together, support people in the achievement of the agency's objectives.

**Financial plan** – an agency's planned revenues and expenses for the fiscal year.

**Goal** – a general statement of desired results to be achieved over an unspecified period of time.

**Governance** – generally refers to the processes by which organizations are directed, controlled, and held to account, and is underpinned by the principles of openness, integrity, and accountability. Governance is concerned with structures and processes for decision making, accountability, control and behaviour at the top of organizations.<sup>2</sup>

**Government** – ministries and Crown agencies as defined in *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

**Guiding principles** – the key values that are used to assist decision making.

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<sup>2</sup> *Governance in the Public Sector: A Governing Body Perspective*, The International Federation of Accountants, p. 1, August 2001.



**Mission** – the broad, long-term purpose of an agency and its primary focus including the stakeholders to be served.

**Objective** – a measurable, time-defined result to be achieved that leads to the achievement of each goal.

**Outcome** – the consequence or result of activities (e.g., our work results in better management systems and practices; Members of the Legislative Assembly are better able to assess the performance of Government as a result of our work).

**Performance indicator** – a factor chosen to monitor success in achieving objectives.

**Performance plan** – an agency's business and financial plan

**Performance report** – compares an agency's planned and actual results (e.g., an annual report, financial statements).

**Results** – outcomes achieved and outputs

**Risk** – the possibility that an agency will experience adverse consequences from events or circumstances (e.g., a major financial, operational, or legal issue an agency must manage well for success in achieving its objectives).

**Sectors** – multiple government agencies working together to deliver common programs or to achieve common goals.

**Stakeholders** – those who have an interest in our decisions, including the people of Saskatchewan, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Standing Committees, and officials/managers/employees of Government.

**Strategies** – the approaches that can be taken to meet objectives and achieve goals.

**Vision** – a brief description of the ideal state.

### **Abbreviations**

**CCA** – The Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**CCAF** – Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation

**CCOLA** – Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors

**CIC** – Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan

**CICA** – The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants

**ICAS** – Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan

**IIA** – Institute of Internal Auditors

**PAC** – The Standing Committee on Public Accounts

## Supplementary Information

### Employee Earnings

List of employees earning \$50,000 or more and their earnings for the year ended March 31, 2009.

Ahmad, Mobashar	\$ 140,904
Anderson, Mark T.	115,712
Atkinson, Brian R.	155,923
Borys, Angèle M.	115,712
Deis, Kelly W.	115,712
Dickin, Deann	65,664
Drotar, Charlene A.	96,491
Duran, Jason S.	52,312
Ferguson, Judy D.	135,712
Grabarczyk, Roderick A.	115,712
Harasymchuk, William W.	95,111
Heebner, Melanie	69,281
Heffernan, Michael A.	135,712
Hungle, Angie D.	93,042
Knox, L. Jane	115,976
Kress, Jeffrey J.	106,512
Lindenbach, Michelle D.	69,281
Lowe, Kimberley I.	96,491
Martens, G. Andrew	115,712
Montgomery, Edward	135,712
Nyhus, Glen D.	115,712
O'Quinn, Carolyn	84,828
Rybchuk, Corrine P.	98,774
Schwab, Victor A.	115,712
Shaw, Jason	64,896
Sommerfeld, E. Regan	96,491
St. John, Trevor P.	74,811
Tomlin, Heather D.	66,415
Volk, Rosemarie M.	115,712
Walker, Sandra J.	76,538
Wendel, G. Fred	179,905
Wendel, Leslie E.	115,710
Payees under \$50,000	1,093,111
Recoveries and increase in accrued vacation leave payable	<u>(9,853)</u>
	<u>\$ 4,431,446</u>

**Suppliers**

List of persons or organizations that provided goods and services to the Office of the Provincial Auditor for \$50,000 or more for the year ended March 31, 2009.

CA School of Business	\$ 63,715
FACT Computers (1968) Ltd.	78,119
Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan	70,485
Merchant Law Group	65,100
Meyers Norris Penny (Regina and Saskatoon)	93,068
S & U Homes	330,636
Saskatchewan Blue Cross	58,569
Talon Financial	70,723
Virtus Group	<u>85,502</u>
	915,917
Suppliers under \$50,000	<u>469,696</u>
	<u>\$ 1,385,613</u>

**Other Expenditures**

List of statutory expenditures of the Office of the Provincial Auditor for \$50,000 or more for the year ended March 31, 2009.

Public Employees Dental Plan	\$ 79,478
Public Employees Pension Plan	289,007
Receiver General for Canada - Canada Pension Plan	<u>114,297</u>
	482,782
Other expenditures under \$50,000	<u>134,134</u>
	<u>\$ 616,916</u>