

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

8

Executive summary.....	196
Part A – Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.....	197
Part B – Coordinating action across government.....	215

Executive summary

This chapter contains two parts. In part A, we report on the results of our 2001 audits of the Department and the First Nations Fund. In part B, we report on our audit of the Department's processes to coordinate action across 15 government departments toward common goals. These goals are set out in *A Framework for Cooperation*.

In Part A, we conclude the Department has adequate processes to safeguard and control public money with one exception relating to First Nations Fund. We report on progress made by the Department to improve its supervision of the First Nations Fund to ensure public money is spent with due care and in accordance with the law.

For the First Nations Fund, we conclude the Fund's 2001 financial statements are reliable. We also continue to report the recommendations that we first made in Chapter 3 of our 2001 Spring Report. The Trustees did not have adequate processes at March 31, 2001 to safeguard and control the Fund's assets and to comply with the law. The Trustees' directions to management since June 2001 encourage us. These directions, once applied, should strengthen the processes and help the Fund comply with the law. We look forward to the Fund implementing the Trustees' directions.

In Part B, we focus on the Department's important role in coordinating the implementation of a key Government policy, *A Framework for Cooperation*. This policy aims to support First Nations and Métis people to participate fully in the Saskatchewan economy. We conclude the Department had adequate processes to coordinate action by key Government departments on the Framework's goals except for processes in two areas. First, the Department needs better processes to help departments align their plans with the Framework's goals and available resources. Our previous reports and recommendations recognize that the Government is working on improving its planning processes. These improvements are important to the success of cross-government initiatives such as the Framework. Second, we recommend that the Department establish processes to obtain written reports from key departments on their actions toward achieving the Framework's goals.

In summary, we are encouraged by the progress made by the Department and the First Nations Fund in ensuring moneys are spent for the purposes intended. Also, we recognize the importance of the Department's role in coordinating key government policies and programs. This coordination is critical to the success of the Government.