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Main points

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (Agency) had adequate processes to safeguard its public resources except that it needs to strengthen the preparation, approval, and implementation of its information technology processes. Although the Agency has developed some policies and procedures and provided staff information on potential IT security risks, this work is not complete. Management told us that the Agency plans to complete this work by March 31, 2012.

We also report that the Agency's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2011 are reliable and the Agency complied with authorities governing its activities.

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (Agency) provides treatment, supportive care, education, prevention, early detection programs, and conducts research for the control of cancer in Saskatchewan. The Agency operates cancer treatment centres in Regina and Saskatoon.

In 2011, the Agency had operating revenues of \$115.4 million and operating expenses of \$115.4 million. At March 31, 2011, it held assets of \$54 million. The Agency's financial statements are included in its *2011 Annual Report* (see <http://www.saskcancer.ca>).

Audit conclusion and finding

In our opinion, for the year ended March 31, 2011:

- ◆ the Agency had adequate rules and procedures to safeguard public resources except as described in this chapter
- ◆ the Agency complied with the following authorities governing its activities relating to financial reporting, safeguarding public resources, revenue raising, spending, borrowing, and investing:

The Cancer Agency Act
The Regional Health Services Act
The Health Information Protection Act
Regulations and Orders in Council issued pursuant to
the above legislation

- ◆ the Agency had reliable financial statements

Complete information technology processes needed

We recommended that the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency strengthen the preparation, approval, and implementation of information technology (IT) processes for its information systems that are based on a formal threat and risk assessment. (2005 Report – Volume 3)

In March 2006, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed with our recommendation.

The Agency has identified the policies and procedures it needs to protect its systems and data. It has developed some policies and procedures and is providing staff with information on potential security risks. However, the work is not complete. For example, the Agency does not have complete policies for protecting mobile devices, backing up data, monitoring firewalls, and managing incidents. Without complete IT policies, the Agency's data is at risk of unauthorized disclosure, alteration, or loss.

Implementation of IT policies also requires security awareness training so that employees know the reasons for IT policies and the security standards they must follow.

Status – We continue to make this recommendation.

Management told us that the Agency plans to complete and implement its IT policies and procedures by March 31, 2012.