

Chapter 26

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

1.0 MAIN POINTS

Through its work and recommendations, the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies helps the Legislative Assembly hold the Government accountable for its management of the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC) and its subsidiaries. The Assembly refers portions of our reports related to CIC and its subsidiaries and annual reports within its subject area to the Committee for its review.

It asks our Office to assess and report on the status of the recommendations it makes as a result of our audit work.

The Government has implemented almost all of the Committee's recommendations arising from the work of our Office. At March 31, 2012, the Committee had four recommendations outstanding.

The Committee has not yet reviewed numerous chapters about CIC and its subsidiary corporations and various annual reports within its subject area that remain outstanding.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Also, it describes the overall status of the Committee's recommendations as they relate to the work of our Office.

2.1 Overview of Committee's Role and Responsibilities

The Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies (Committee) is one of the Legislative Assembly's four policy field committees. The Assembly has made policy field committees responsible for examining certain documents within their assigned subject area. These documents include bills and regulations (proposed laws), annual budget estimates, and annual reports. During their reviews, these committees can inquire about issues of current concern, future objectives, and past performance.

These committees can also conduct inquiries into matters within their mandated subject area. They provide the Assembly with reports on their activities and can make recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration.

Meetings of policy field committees are open to the public. The Assembly's website¹ contains information about the composition of the committees and records of their meetings (i.e., Hansard verbatim, minutes, videos, and reports).

¹ www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/legislative-committees.



2.2 Responsibilities Specific to the Committee

The Committee's subject area is Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC) and its subsidiary corporations, supply and services (e.g., Ministry of Government Services), central government agencies (e.g., Ministry of Finance, Public Service Commission), liquor, gaming, and all other revenue-related agencies and entities.

The Assembly has given the Committee the following additional responsibilities. The Assembly refers portions of our reports related to CIC and its subsidiaries to the Committee.² Also, the Assembly requires the Minister responsible for CIC to notify the Committee, in writing, about significant transactions³ of CIC or any of its subsidiaries within 90 days of when the transaction occurred. The notification must outline the objectives of the transaction, the financial implications, a statement of any changed liabilities, and the authority under which such a transaction was made.⁴

When the Committee reviews our reports, it typically does so in conjunction with its review of the related corporation's annual report. For these meetings, our Office and the corporation's appointed auditor, if any, attend to help the Committee with its review.

Because of the magnitude of financial activity that the Government manages through CIC and its corporations, the Committee has an important role. It helps the Assembly hold the Government accountable for its management of these corporations.

2.3 The Members of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

As of March 2012, the members of the Committee were:

- › Greg Brkich, Chair
- › Warren McCall, Deputy Chair
- › Gene Makowsky
- › Scott Moe
- › Roger Parent
- › Randy Weekes
- › Nadine Wilson

2.4 Committee Activities: 2011-12

During 2011-12, the Committee met 7 times (2010-11: 12 times). It gave the Assembly one report on the results of its reviews of estimates and bills within its subject area. It did not receive any significant transaction reports.

The Committee's consideration of the chapters from our reports about CIC and its subsidiary corporations noted in Figure 1 remains outstanding. Also, the Committee's review of annual reports of agencies within its subject area for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 remains outstanding.

² Rule 143(3) of The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and section 14.1(8) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

³ Significant transactions are defined by the Committee as those that are material in amount and outside the ordinary course of business, or are judged to be sensitive and likely of interest to legislators and the public.

⁴ Rule 143(4) of The Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Figure 1 – Portions of Provincial Auditor Reports Referred to the Committee

Name	Related Report	Chapter	Number of New Recommendations to be Considered
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation	2009 Report – Volume 1	10	0
	2010 Report – Volume 1	14	0
	2011 Report – Volume 1	13	1
Saskatchewan Government Insurance	2009 Report – Volume 1	11	0
	2010 Report – Volume 1	15	3
Saskatchewan Power Corporation	2007 Report – Volume 3	23	4
	2008 Report – Volume 1	13	0
	2010 Report – Volume 1	16	2
	2011 Report – Volume 1	14	1
	2011 Report – Volume 2	22	7
Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation	2009 Report – Volume 1	13	9
	2010 Report – Volume 1	17	1
	2011 Report – Volume 1	16	0
Saskatchewan Transportation Company	2009 Report – Volume 1	14	0
Saskatchewan Water Corporation	2009 Report – Volume 1	15	0
	2010 Report – Volume 1	18	6
	2011 Report – Volume 1	17	0
SaskEnergy Incorporated	2010 Report – Volume 1	19	1
Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies	2009 Report – Volume 1	17	0
	2010 Report – Volume 1	20	0
	2011 Report – Volume 1	20	0
	2011 Report – Volume 2 – Quality of Annual Reports of CIC Crown Corporations	26	0

3.0 STATUS OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of the Committee's reports to the Assembly contain recommendations as a result of our audit work. Each year, we follow up the status of the Committee's outstanding recommendations and report their status.

At March 31, 2012, the Committee had four (six—at March 31, 2011) recommendations outstanding—that is, recommendations that the Government has not yet fully implemented. See Chapters 14 and 15 – Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation and Chapter 21 – Saskatchewan Water Corporation for a listing and the status of the outstanding recommendations.

Figure 2 provides an update on recommendations agreed to by the Committee that are not discussed elsewhere in the Report.



Figure 2—Outstanding Recommendations

Outstanding Recommendations		Status as at March 31, 2012
Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (2010 Report – Volume 2)		
The Committee concurs: 25.1 Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan maintain current, detailed documentation of definitions and calculation methods for its balanced scorecard measures.	We plan to follow this up in 2013-14.	
The Committee concurs: 25.2 Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan confirm that documented calculation methods are appropriate and verify that staff use them to produce balanced scorecard information.	We plan to follow this up in 2013-14.	

Figure 3 sets out key terms we use when reporting the status of the Committee's recommendations.

Figure 3—Key Terms

<p>Committee Concurs – These are our Office's recommendations that the Committee has supported, agreed, or concurred with. The Committee does not expect a formal response from the Government but does expect the Government to comply with the recommendations. In Exhibit 2, these recommendations are identified by a number (e.g., 4.1) preceding them. The numbers reflect the chapter and recommendation number of our related report.</p> <p>Committee Recommends – These are the Committee's recommendations. The Committee expects an official response or action by the Government.</p> <p>Committee Considered – These are our Office's recommendations. The Committee has deferred them for future consideration (e.g., pending the presentation of additional information) or has made its own recommendation on the matter.</p> <p>Not Implemented – Based on the last time that we audited the area or agency, the Government has not taken action on this recommendation.</p> <p>Partially Implemented – Based on the last time that we audited the area or agency, the Government has taken some action on this recommendation.</p>
