



Legislative Assembly of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
Third Session

Standing Committee
on
Public Accounts

Tuesday, November 18, 2014
8:30 a.m.

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Third Session**

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Anderson, Rob, Airdrie (W), Chair
Dorward, Hon. David C., Edmonton-Gold Bar (PC), Deputy Chair

Allen, Mike, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (PC)
Amery, Moe, Calgary-East (PC)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND)
Donovan, Ian, Little Bow (W)
Hehr, Kent, Calgary-Buffalo (AL)
Horne, Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)*
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)**
Jeneroux, Matt, Edmonton-South West (PC)
Khan, Hon. Stephen, St. Albert (PC)
Luan, Jason, Calgary-Hawkwood (PC)
Pastoor, Bridget Brennan, Lethbridge-East (PC)
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)
Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)
Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC)

* substitution for Hon. David Dorward

** substitution for Hon. Stephen Khan

Also in Attendance

Anglin, Joe, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (Ind)

Office of the Auditor General Participants

Merwan Saher	Auditor General
Doug Wylie	Assistant Auditor General

Support Staff

W.J. David McNeil	Clerk
Robert H. Reynolds, QC	Law Clerk/Director of Interparliamentary Relations
Shannon Dean	Senior Parliamentary Counsel/ Director of House Services
Philip Massolin	Manager of Research Services
Stephanie LeBlanc	Legal Research Officer
Sarah Amato	Research Officer
Nancy Robert	Research Officer
Corinne Dacyshyn	Committee Clerk
Jody Rempel	Committee Clerk
Karen Sawchuk	Committee Clerk
Christopher Tyrell	Committee Clerk
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Jeanette Dotimas	Communications Consultant
Tracey Sales	Communications Consultant
Janet Schwegel	Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

[Mr. Anderson in the chair]

The Chair: Good morning, everyone. I would like to call this meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to order. I'm Rob Anderson, committee chair and MLA for Airdrie, and I would like to welcome everyone in attendance here and via teleconference.

We will go around the table to introduce ourselves, starting on my right with our temporary deputy chair, sitting in for David Dorward, who is not here today, who is on another assignment. Please indicate if you are sitting in on the committee as a substitute for another member.

Mr. Horne: Fred Horne, Edmonton-Rutherford, substituting for David Dorward, Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Mr. Young: Steve Young, MLA for Edmonton-Riverview.

Ms Pastoor: Bridget Pastoor, MLA, Lethbridge-East.

Mr. Amery: Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

Ms Jansen: Sandra Jansen, Calgary-North West.

Mr. Bilous: Good morning. Deron Bilous, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Mr. Donovan: Good morning. Ian Donovan, Little Bow riding.

Mr. Luan: Good morning. Jason Luan, Calgary-Hawkwood.

Mr. Wylie: Good morning. Doug Wylie, Assistant Auditor General.

Mrs. Sarich: Good morning. Janice Sarich, MLA, Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Allen: Good morning. Mike Allen, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Anglin: Good morning. Joe Anglin, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre.

Mr. Barnes: Good morning. Drew Barnes, Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Sandhu: Good morning. Peter Sandhu, Edmonton-Manning.

Dr. Massolin: Good morning. Philip Massolin, manager of research services.

Mr. Tyrell: Good morning. Chris Tyrell, committee clerk.

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The agenda has been circulated to the committee in advance. We'd first like a mover that the agenda for the November 18, 2014, Standing Committee on Public Accounts meeting be

approved as distributed. Mr. Sandhu. Those in favour? Any opposed? Carried.

We have the minutes from our last meeting in the spring that still need to be approved. They have also been circulated. Do we have a mover that the minutes for the May 29, 2014, Standing Committee on Public Accounts meeting be approved as distributed? Mr. Amery. Those in favour? Any opposed? Carried.

All right. The office of the Auditor General has been busy this summer, obviously, if you've been keeping track, putting out four reports in the past five months. We have Mr. Doug Wylie from the office of the Auditor General here with us today.

I'd turn it over to you, Doug, to say a few words regarding these reports.

Mr. Wylie: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It won't take long, maybe five minutes. I'd just like to give an overview of the reports that you referred to. You're correct. We did have a very busy year, unusually busy.

First, I'd like to pass along the regrets of the Auditor General, Mr. Saher. He couldn't be here today, but he certainly wished that he could.

Mr. Chair, in total we made 44 recommendations. We repeated 14 recommendations, and we reported that 73 recommendations had been implemented over the year.

I'll first maybe quickly go through each one of the reports. Let me start with the February 2014 report and provide some highlights. Our February report included an audit of the oversight systems for public-sector pension plans. Our recommendations to the Department of Finance and Treasury Board were intended to help ensure that public-sector pension plans' objectives and tolerances for cost and funding components were clearly articulated. We also reported on Alberta's postsecondary institutions. We provided a report card on internal controls over financial reporting, highlighting our observations on financial statement preparation and outstanding recommendations from our audits of colleges, technical institutions, MacEwan University, and Mount Royal University. We also reported on seven follow-up audits in our February report.

Let me turn to our July report. In July we examined the quality of the government's results analysis reporting to Albertans. We believe this report will be of particular interest to this committee when reviewing ministry annual reports. Our findings were significant, noting that ministries needed to identify and analyze results to improve their reporting; present a clear analysis of results for significant matters, including business plan priority initiatives; shift the balance in their annual reports, that being to increase the reporting analysis of results and decrease the number of programs and activities described without analysis; develop standardized guidance and training to direct and improve results analysis reporting by ministries; and monitor results analysis reporting compliance with annual report standards within each ministry and across the government.

Our July report also included a follow-up audit on 15 recommendations. We assessed nine as implemented and repeated six. Two of the repeated recommendations related to our climate change audit. We reported that without a clear process for monitoring progress, the government cannot know if the actions it is funding are those most likely to yield the results it expects.

In August we released our findings of a special duty audit on the expenses of the office of Premier Redford and the Alberta air transportation services program. Improvements to processes were suggested by our office through six recommendations. As you're aware, this report received significant public attention.

In September we released the results of our audit of chronic disease management in Alberta. Our overall conclusion was that Alberta provides some excellent care for individuals with chronic diseases; however, that care tends to be fragmented. Recommendations for improvement were made to both the Department of Health and Alberta Health Services.

We noted that chronic diseases are arguably one of the largest challenges facing our health care system. Chronic diseases shorten people's lives and make their lives more difficult. Chronic diseases are also one of the largest drivers of health care costs. They're the most common cause of hospitalizations and emergency department visits and the most common reason for family physician visits. The burden of chronic disease will increase as our population grows and ages. We reported that effective management of chronic disease is critical to the health of Albertans and the long-term sustainability of our public health care system.

Our October report contains the findings and recommendations for financial statements and performance measures auditing of 150 government entities as well as five new stand-alone systems audits and two follow-up systems audits. I'll only highlight two for the committee at this time.

First, our follow-up audit on seniors' care in long-term care facilities. Every program and process we discuss in this report served a single function, to ensure that individual residents receive the daily care they need. The Department of Health and Alberta Health Services have made improvements in the right direction since our 2005 audit. This momentum must be reinforced to complete the task of ensuring that every resident's individual needs are met. We found that Alberta Health Services has insufficient assurance that long-term care facilities are appropriately and consistently allocating publicly funded staff hours to each shift to deliver daily care that fulfills individual residents' care plans. Additionally, the Department of Health needs to improve public reporting on the results achieved for the funds provided.

The second audit I want to highlight is our audit of the joint Canada-Alberta plan for oil sands monitoring. The plan describes projects the two governments agreed to carry out over three years starting in 2012. The purpose was to understand the cumulative effects of oil sands development and determine whether the development is environmentally responsible. The two governments released their first annual report 15 months after the plan's first year ended. Our report highlights that the first report released by the two governments was not clear on whether their plan was on track.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes an overview of the highlights of our five annual reports.

The Chair: Thank you very much for that. It's much appreciated.

Members of our informal working group met a few months ago along with staff from the office of the Auditor General to put together some suggestions for fall invitees. Based on the contents of the AG's reports, the working group agreed to suggest that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts call the following: the Department of Health and AHS together for a meeting; the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, the Alberta Medical Association, the Alberta College of Pharmacists, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, and a primary care network all together at one meeting; the Department of Seniors at another meeting; a fourth meeting with the Department of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development; and a fifth one with the Department of Treasury Board and Finance. Again, these are all based on chapters of the Auditor General's report.

Mr. Wylie, does the AG or does your office have any thoughts on these recommendations?

8:40

Mr. Wylie: Mr. Chair, we agree wholeheartedly, I guess, with one suggestion if we could, and that would be that, rather than a PCN being called, the Health Quality Council of Alberta attend at the meeting with the colleges and the associations.

The Chair: What's the reasoning for that?

Mr. Wylie: Mr. Chair, I think the initial discussion regarding a primary care network was that the committee would be provided with some insight on the front-line workings of a primary care network. While we agree with that, I think the flow of that meeting very likely will be the committee receiving input from the organizations, the colleges, as significant stakeholders, those being able to in fact influence some of the suggested change. We think the HQCA could provide their insights as well and that it would add to the flow of that meeting.

The Chair: Okay.

Well, let me open this up to the floor to hear from our members. Any comments on this list or on the slight alteration proposed by the AG's office? Mrs. Sarich.

Mrs. Sarich: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Could you just review the groupings as it pertains to health again so I could just chart out how this fits with the groupings that you proposed?

The Chair: Sure. You bet. The first meeting would be the Department of Health and AHS together. The second meeting would be the College of Physicians & Surgeons, the Alberta Medical Association, the College of Pharmacists, the college of registered nurses, and the Health Quality Council representative, all together; then the third, the Department of Seniors; the fourth, the Department of Environment and SRD; and the fifth, Treasury Board and Finance.

Any other comments?

Mr. Horne: Mr. Chair, if I could just ask Mr. Wylie – I'm still not sure that I understand the rationale for excluding a primary care network from the discussion. The grouping that you have consists, you know, primarily of regulators in the health care system. The addition of the Health Quality Council I understand. I guess I'm just wondering, given that so much of the focus of your work in recent times has been on chronic disease management, why we wouldn't want the perspective of a PCN, which actually delivers those services?

Mr. Wylie: It was purely an issue of time.

Mr. Horne: I see.

Mr. Wylie: I actually believe that the primary care network representatives would provide some excellent input to the committee, but it was just a matter of timing, and given the representation of the other members attending, we thought that HQCA would be a good fit as well. Certainly, it's not intended to exclude a PCN.

Mr. Horne: Okay. That's fine. I just wanted the clarification. Thanks.

The Chair: Do we want to invite a primary care network as well, or do we want to just substitute them out? Any comments on that? Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Barnes: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, for one, would like to hear from a primary care network. I understand that there's quite a diversity amongst them. There are some things that they could contribute. I think that we could learn, too, what the expectations are on them and how they think the process is working.

Mr. Young: I certainly agree with you. Just getting on your first point, there's quite a diversity. Is there a way to get a representative person or group to represent them all because there's such a range between Chinook and – if we picked any one, I think it would be random, not reflective of the totality of all the different PCNs.

Mr. Wylie or the vice-chair, do you have any suggestions of somebody who could represent PCNs rather than a PCN?

The Chair: Do you want to answer that, Mr. Vice-Chair?

Mr. Horne: Sure. There are a couple of groups that are representative, I think, of primary care networks generally. There is a provincial group of physician leads for primary care networks. That might be one group that could be looked to. There is also an association or a group called the primary care initiative, which supports some of the work of PCNs although they're a little further removed from the actual delivery of care. I didn't want to open a huge discussion. I just wanted to understand why we wouldn't include them. If it's a question of time available, I defer to the committee, but if you do want a representative group, I'd suggest one of those two. I'm sure people could look into that.

Ms Pastoor: How many PCNs are there? I can't remember.

Mr. Horne: There are 41.

Ms Pastoor: Okay. I was going to suggest that maybe they could . . .

The Chair: Have all 41.

Ms Pastoor: Forget it.

The Chair: Mrs. Sarich.

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering about the time. Even though we would allocate meeting 2 to all of those stakeholders, as you had pointed out and listed there, I'm wondering about the flexibility. Should we run out of time or need to dedicate, for example, an extra hour for this particular group – and it's a lot of stakeholders coming in a compressed period of time for Public Accounts, you know – to have a thorough examination, I'm just wondering how flexible we are to convene another hour to help facilitate what we would like to achieve for the large group in the health care sector.

The Chair: Well, as a committee we have flexibility to do whatever we wish, so I'll leave it up to the committee. But, Mr. Wylie, that is quite a long list there, that second meeting. Will there be enough time to cover the chapter, the material with all the stakeholders giving input, or is this something that should be extended over another hour or so?

Mr. Wylie: Well, I think the more time you have, the committee will certainly benefit. Some of the thinking was that, you know, initially each one of the groups might spend a few minutes explaining the group's connection to CDM, chronic disease management. They might be given the opportunity to provide their

view of chronic disease management within Alberta, how things are working from their perspective, and how they can help improve things, and then actually, indeed, hear from them directly on the contents of our report. I think that's important as well. They're significant stakeholders.

Again, I think time is the issue here. I think the committee will benefit from each one of these organizations attending, so I would certainly encourage the committee to take the time to deal with this. As we said in our comments – and I know the Auditor General feels very strongly about this report being a significant issue; indeed, he's referred to it as a call to action. I think the hope is that by involving these stakeholders, there will be some discussion of this issue, and hopefully you'll be able to examine it fully.

The Chair: Because it's about a specific chapter and a specific subject matter, I think we might be able to get away with it. But if we need more time, Mrs. Sarich, at the end, if we're not satisfied, we can schedule another meeting.

I might suggest that we go with what Mr. Wylie has outlined in that we sub out the PCN because of the problem of finding someone that's representative of all PCNs and just put on the Alberta Health Quality Council. Then, look, if we feel the need to call representatives from PCNs at a later date, maybe we can have that focus in one meeting. Would that be agreeable to committee members? Okay. Would someone like to move, then, that

the following groups be called before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in the order listed, subject, of course, to scheduling availability: first, Alberta Health and AHS together; second, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta with the Alberta Medical Association, the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, the Alberta College of Pharmacists, the Alberta Pharmacists' Association, and the Alberta Health Quality Council – that's the second meeting – and then the third meeting, Alberta Seniors; fourth meeting, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development; and the fifth meeting, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance; and that any necessary scheduling changes to this list be made at the discretion of the working group.

Is there a mover for that motion? Mr. Young. Those in favour? Any opposed? Carried. Thank you for that.

Our committee clerk will get the invitation letters out as soon as possible. Thank you.

8:50

Mr. Young: Excuse me. Just a question.

The Chair: Yeah.

Mr. Young: Is there an opportunity for people to provide written submissions to the committee on this issue of chronic disease management? I'm just wondering: is that an option?

The Chair: Sure. Are you talking about members of this committee?

Mr. Young: No. I mean, like, if there's a PCN that wants to, you know, provide an opinion. Is that out there?

The Chair: Oh, okay. Of course. Absolutely. We've received in the past correspondence from different organizations when they know something is coming up that might affect them, so absolutely.

Mr. Young: We don't want to be perceived as excluding somebody like a PCN, which is significant, and I think we can communicate that if challenged, that there is an opportunity to

submit those to the committee for consideration as we go through that. I just hate to say no to somebody. We're limited by time.

The Chair: Very good point. If there are PCNs that would like to comment on the subject matter of that meeting in advance so that we have it, I think that we would welcome that.

Oh, sorry. Dr. Massolin.

Dr. Massolin: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have a question for you and the committee about the motion you just passed because you included as one of the meetings a meeting with Seniors. Now, not to presume upon the audit and the work that the Auditor General's office has done, but I think that audit deals with more than just the new Ministry of Seniors. They are responsible for the seniors' lodges program, but I think that meeting would also deal with areas of authority that are under Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services. So maybe the committee might want to reconsider by also inviting representatives from those two entities to that meeting. Maybe Mr. Wylie could comment further on that.

Mr. Wylie: Yeah. That's a really good point, actually. The recommendations in our October report were directed to Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services, so they should respond to those recommendations.

The Chair: Would it make sense to have someone from Alberta Seniors participate in the first meeting with Alberta Health and AHS?

Mr. Wylie: Are you referring to the chronic disease subject matter?

The Chair: Yeah. Do we want to lump them in, or do we want to have somebody back a second time?

Mr. Wylie: I would suggest that they come back. Yeah, dedicated.

The Chair: Okay.

All right. Any comments on that?

Ms Pastoor: The more I'm sitting here and having come out of Health many years ago, I'm hoping that if we discover at the end of each meeting that that hour and a half is going to go so quickly with this diverse group and the depth of knowledge that we want to get out of this, we can say: "You know what? We have to have another meeting with this exact same group." I'd like to think that that thought process is open and that when groups come, they know that, in fact, if they don't get it all said or we don't get all our answers done, we can have – there's an awful lot of information to go through for just three meetings. I'd like to leave that on the table, that we could go again.

The Chair: I agree.

Mrs. Sarich.

Mrs. Sarich: Yes. If you were looking for another motion to include with the third group Seniors, Alberta Health, and Alberta Health Services, I'll make that motion.

The Chair: Okay. So moved. Any further discussion on that?

Mr. Bilous: Forgive me, Dr. Massolin – I tuned out for a little bit there – but the logic behind inviting a representative from AHS to the Seniors: is this partly to do with, obviously, seniors' health, but are we also taking the opportunity to look at seniors' housing?

If that's the case – correct me if I'm wrong – does that not fit under Municipal Affairs at the moment?

Dr. Massolin: Mr. Chair, to Mr. Bilous – and Mr. Wylie, I think, is the best person to elaborate – my understanding is that that Seniors audit has to do with seniors' lodges, which are under that new ministry, but also it has to do with long-term care, which is under Health and Alberta Health Services. So that's the rationale.

Mr. Bilous: Okay.

Dr. Massolin: But maybe Mr. Wylie would like to elaborate.

Mr. Wylie: That's correct. There are two elements to the seniors' care work that we did. One is the seniors' care itself, which is the more medical care. I'll call it that. That's Alberta Health Services and the Department of Health. Then there is the lodges, the accommodation side.

Mr. Bilous: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Massolin, very much for bringing up that point. So I'll support this motion.

The Chair: Any other comments on the motion?

All right. Mrs. Sarich's motion: those in favour? Any opposed? Carried.

Is there any other business that committee members would like to raise at this time? Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Barnes: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if this committee would like to discuss the idea of recalling Alberta Infrastructure to the meeting. Of course, the situation with the federal building and the sky palace: it's still unclear who stopped it, who cancelled it. It's unclear whether the residential suite is there and just furnished in a different way. It's unclear to me whether that was delved into in the right way when we had Alberta Infrastructure here. So as guardians of the taxpayers' money I wonder if it's to our advantage to try to get to the bottom with Alberta Infrastructure of how public money was spent on this.

The Chair: Mr. Wylie, maybe you can comment on this first. Your report released August 7 did seem to have some new information regarding the federal building suite and how that kind of happened and that sort of thing. What are your thoughts in this regard? It was in one of your summer reports. Is there a need, in your view, to go over this in detail as opposed to just letting it continue on?

Mr. Wylie: Mr. Chair, I think that's at the will of the committee. I think that whether the committee wishes to examine or not is your decision.

The Chair: Okay. Well, I'll open it up for discussion. I'll just say that usually we have been very consistent that when there's a recommendation made by the Auditor General, we usually do call the department in charge before this committee. Is there a specific recommendation in one of the summer reports that Mr. Wylie referred to earlier today that dealt with this issue that you would like to examine, or is this more just of a general nature?

Mr. Barnes: More of a general nature. Again, I guess, to get to the bottom of the best way to spend our taxpayers' money, the best way to ensure that value is being received and we as public representatives have a clearer understanding of what's happening.

The Chair: All right.
Mrs. Sarich.

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if another approach may be helpful. At the last meeting in May I had put forward a draft template, which was designed to facilitate the department response, the questions that were asked by members of the Public Accounts Committee. Then there would be a determination of satisfaction by the member who asked the question. So I'm looking to that process. I'm wondering if the member would consider going back into *Hansard*, taking a look, and coming back at the next meeting, you know, with other business or agenda items to give the committee a better understanding of the level of satisfaction regarding the question that he is raising today, and going back with the responses given by the department, the inquiry by Public Accounts Committee members. Then I think it would be very helpful. I'm raising this because we have some new members on this committee, and it might be helpful to revisit what was covered in the past so we can analyze what would be appropriate next steps for the committee.

The Chair: Okay. Good comments.

Mr. Young: Well, I think Janice makes a very good point about closing the loop on previous questions that have been asked at this committee. But I also think that we have scheduled Treasury Board and Finance to be coming about the report, the special report, that was presented on the transportation systems, which included the aspects of the construction of the federal building. I think that's the opportunity to make those questions about that report, and we've certainly scheduled for that.

9:00

The Chair: I have to say that I agree with Mr. Young on this. I think that part of the report, obviously, is going to be examined when we have Alberta Treasury Board and Finance. What might make some sense, since that's what it's going to be about, is to invite someone from Infrastructure to that fifth meeting, and then you've got both of them. You'll have them both there to ask the questions. That is one idea. Since we're just focusing on that special report, just do it all at once. It's not like we're going over the entire Ministry of Infrastructure during that meeting. Would that be an idea?

Mr. Young: It is my understanding that the report was made to Treasury Board and Finance, and I think this committee could recommend that they also bring this subset of that. I think they're the lead on that if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Wylie.

Mr. Wylie: That is correct. All of the recommendations were to Treasury Board and Finance with one exception, that being to Treasury Board itself.

The Chair: Yeah. Now, Infrastructure obviously had a major role to play in the building of the – I'm trying to use the proper terminology here – federal building suite on the top. So would it make sense to have those representatives here to answer some of those questions as well under the purview of the committee?

Mr. Wylie: Mr. Chair, again, I think, depending on the nature of the questioning, it might be very prudent to have them there. Again, I think it's the committee's call.

The Chair: Okay.

Now, I do notice, Mr. Barnes, that you have asked that the Minister of Infrastructure be there as well. I'm a little

uncomfortable with that just because we generally don't make that a practice of this committee. We generally do not have ministers come to these meetings. It's usually the deputy minister or one of the representatives, and they can answer on behalf of. It's a way of keeping things less partisan, and that's the role of Public Accounts. Would you like to make the motion that

Alberta Infrastructure also be invited with Alberta Treasury Board and Finance to the fifth meeting that we discussed?
Is that a motion you'd like to make?

Mr. Barnes: Yes, please.

The Chair: Okay. Any further discussion on that motion? All right. Those in favour? Any opposed? Carried. Thank you very much.

Any other business?

Mr. Bilous: I just wanted to take this opportunity to ask Mr. Wylie from the Auditor General's office about the status of the report that the AG is working on on pipelines. I'm curious to know if there's any update on that.

Mr. Wylie: I couldn't give you an update today. We'll certainly get back to the committee if you'd like an update, but I'm not prepared to give an update. I really don't know at this stage where we're at in the audit.

Mr. Bilous: Okay. I mean, that was something that was discussed earlier on and would impact my next idea, which is for us to consider in the new year bringing the Department of Energy in front of us.

The Chair: Very good point, and as soon as that report is released, I think it will be a priority to get Energy in front of us to respond if there are recommendations made, of course.

Mrs. Sarich.

Mrs. Sarich: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just in follow-up to the May 29, 2014, Public Accounts Committee meeting, under other business I had submitted a draft template that was supposed to go forward to the working committee. I notice that it was referred to as appendix 7 in the meeting minutes, but appendix 7 wasn't included. Anyway, I was just asking: what is the status of that, and would you be able to provide some information at the next meeting on that draft template and any suggested changes or what we would be able to take a look at at the next meeting?

The second thing is that I was wondering about training for the committee members for Public Accounts and if the working committee could take a look at that particular item and come back with a proposal.

Third, because – and I say this with respect – there were four reports of the Auditor General and one of the practices of the committee is to have an in camera briefing around those reports, I'm just wondering, should there be future reports, that we as a Standing Committee on Public Accounts would be able to go back to that best practice and have that in camera meeting in advance of our other meetings.

The Chair: Absolutely, Mrs. Sarich. You know, you're very correct. We usually do have a meeting to brief the members about these reports as they come out. Obviously, these last six months have been a little different than the standard, so we're kind of rolling with the punches here. But in the new year when the next report comes out, or maybe it'll come out in the fall or whatever, we will – Mr. Wylie, when is the next report due?

Mr. Wylie: February.

The Chair: February. Okay. Perfect. Then let's make sure to schedule one of those briefing meetings.

As to the draft that was put together to get supplementary answers from the guests that we have, we have not had a chance to go over that yet, but I will make sure to make a note that we put that on the next meeting for the informal working group.

What was the other one again?

Mrs. Sarich: Training.

The Chair: Again, we were going to do training this fall, but it was just a little different of a situation, so the plan is to look towards sometime in the spring to take care of that or, I guess, in January, February, March, somewhere in there. So we'll definitely be calling up CCAF to get their availability to do some training. You know, just don't call a snap election on us, and we can get that done, government members. No pressure. So that's definitely something that we'll look at as well.

Is there any other new business that committee members would like to bring forward?

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25. That would be with Alberta Health and AHS, I guess.

We will be restarting our regular premeeting briefing sessions next week at 8 a.m. Those, of course, are in committee room B with LAO research and the office of the Auditor General. These are open to all MLAs on the committee, and I encourage you to be there. For those of you who are new on the committee, we'll all attest that it makes the meetings much more effective because, essentially, you'll have a better understanding of the material that's going to be presented and specifically the recommendations that we're trying to look into. So it's very helpful to the process if you're there.

Would a member like to move that this meeting be adjourned? Ms Jansen. Those in favour? Any opposed? Carried. Thank you.

[The committee adjourned at 9:08 a.m.]

