

Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Long-term Internal Audit Plan
2004-05 to 2006-07
Executive Summary

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Strategic Planning and Professional Practices
Planification stratégique et méthodes professionnelles

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Executive Summary

Purpose of Long-term Internal Audit Plan: The Strategic Planning and Professional Practices group, in compliance with the Office's Internal Audit Policy, conducts internal audits which focus on internal management and administration within the Office of the Auditor General. This document presents a strategy for internal audits, our Long-term Internal Audit Plan for 2004–05 to 2006–07. Approved by the Audit Committee and the Auditor General, the Plan provides the direction and authority for the scope, objectives and timing of internal audits and their resources. We believe that a well developed Long-term Internal Audit Plan and Practice Review Plan could provide a basis for reliance by external peer reviewers on the Office's work, depending on the scope of the external peer review.

Methodology and Approach: We identified the internal audit universe which essentially comprised the Office's systems and practices. We aligned the relevant portions of the corporate risk profile and factored in areas of significant discretionary expenditures and areas for which we are accountable for compliance with key authorities. We scheduled these higher risk audit areas and slated them for audit.

Focus of the Internal Audits: Most of our internal audits will be a mix of compliance and performance audits. We will review compliance with Office policies and/or central agency policies, and then address performance auditing issues.

Resourcing Strategy: In keeping with the Office's Internal Audit Policy, we propose that the Office allocate a budget for all the resources needed for internal audits over the next three years. Our key assumptions about resources are based on the benchmarking study presented to the Audit Committee in 2002. We propose that the Strategic Planning and Professional Practices group maintain a core team of internal audit and practice review professionals. This team, led by a principal, includes a director and two audit project leaders. The internal audit work can provide an ideal training ground and corporate perspective for management trainees, for example over a two-year developmental assignment. We propose that consultants supplement in-house resources as necessary. The engagement of consultants with the required knowledge and expertise complements internal resources.