

Preface

The 32nd Yukon Legislative Assembly appointed the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on November 30, 2006. The members appointed were:

Arthur Mitchell
Steve Nordick
John Edzerza
Hon. Glenn Hart
Don Inverarity
Hon. Marian Horne
Hon. Patrick Rouble

At its first meeting on December 14, 2006 the Committee elected Mr. Mitchell as its Chair and elected Mr. Nordick Vice-Chair. Also at this meeting, Officials from the office of the Auditor General of Canada (OAG) informed the committee that it was conducting an audit of the Department of Highways and Public Works. The officials indicated that the report would be concluded in late January 2007. The officials also indicated that they were prepared to assist the Committee in holding public hearings on the report during the week of February 5-9, 2007.

At the Committee's second meeting on January 12, 2007 members discussed Mr. Hart's participation in any activities the Committee might undertake regarding the Department of Highways and Public Works. Hon. Mr. Hart had been the minister responsible for that department during the 31st Legislative Assembly. Beginning with Meeting #3 Hon. Elaine Taylor substituted for Hon. Mr. Hart on the Committee.

Also at this meeting, officials from the OAG outlined the process for the release of the report on the Department of Highways and Public Works on Friday, February 2, 2007. The Committee agreed to hold a public hearing on this report on Thursday, February 8, 2007. On January 17, 2007 the Committee issued a news release to this effect.

On February 2 Sheila Fraser, Auditor General of Canada, released the report on the Department of Highways and Public Works. Members of the Legislative Assembly had the opportunity to receive the report and ask questions of the Auditor General at a special meeting in the Legislative Assembly chamber. The report became a public document at this time.

In preparation for the public hearing the Committee held a third meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. At this meeting members discussed the report, drafted questions for the witnesses appearing before the Committee and distributed those questions amongst themselves.

The public hearing took place on February 8. The transcripts of that hearing are appended to this report.

The Committee held three subsequent meetings – on February 21, 2007; March 14, 2007; and March 30, 2007 – to prepare this report.

The Committee would like to thank Andrew Lennox, Assistant Auditor General for the Territorial Governments; Eric Hellsten, Principal, Office of the Auditor General (Vancouver office); and Gerald Chu, Director, Office of the Auditor General of Canada (Vancouver office) for their assistance in preparing the Committee for the hearings.

The Committee would also like to thank the witnesses from the Department of Highways and Public Works who appeared before it for their co-operation and their contribution to the public hearing process.