



**FIRST REPORT
OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Second Session
Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly
of the
Province of New Brunswick

March 26, 2019

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE	
Mr. Melanson, Chair Mr. Fairgrieve, Vice Chair Mr. Northrup Mr. Savoie Mr. Crossman	Ms. Harris Mr. LeBlanc Ms. Rogers Ms. Mitton Mr. Austin

March 26, 2019

To The Honourable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker:

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts begs leave to submit this, their first report.

The report outlines the Committee's activities since it last reported during the Fourth Session of the 58th Legislative Assembly.

And your Committee begs leave to make a further report.

Mr. Roger Melanson, MLA
Chair

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Pursuant to Standing Rule 99, the Clerk convened a meeting of the Committee on December 11, 2018, and presided over the election of a Chair and Vice Chair.

On motion of Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Melanson was elected Chair of the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Crossman, Mr. Fairgrieve was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Committee Activities

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts held a joint session with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the following:

January 16, 2019

Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick

Under review: Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2018, Volume II - Performance Audit and Volume III - Financial Audit.

Volume II presented performance audit reports on improving student performance and managing injured workers' claims. It also presented a follow-up on performance audit recommendations from prior years and a detailed status report of performance audit recommendations since 2014.

Volume III focused on New Brunswick's year-end financial results and matters arising from the annual financial audit of the provincial government and Crown agencies including understanding key financial audit issues and observations on the state of New Brunswick's financial condition.

The Committee held meetings in the Legislative Council Chamber on February 7, 8, 19, 20, 21 and 22. The following departments appeared and answered questions concerning the years under review and Auditor General recommendations:

February 7, 2019

Treasury Board

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

Department of Finance

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

February 8, 2019

Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

February 19, 2019

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

February 20, 2019

Department of Social Development

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

February 21, 2019

Department of Justice and Public Safety

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

Department of Health

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

February 22, 2019

Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

Years under review: 2016-2017, 2017-2018

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts last reported during the 58th Legislative Assembly. The following activities took place prior to the appointment of your current committee.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts held joint sessions with the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations to receive and review the following:

November 23, 2017

Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick

Under review: Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2017 Volume III – Special Examination, Volume IV – Financial Audit, and Volume V – Performance Audit.

Volume III presented the special examination on Residential Property Tax Assessments in Service New Brunswick.

Volume IV focused on matters arising from the annual financial audit of the provincial government and Crown agencies including observations on the financial condition of the Province.

Volume V presented the performance report on school district purchase cards, as well as a follow-up on recommendations from prior years' performance audit chapters.

June 12, 2018

Office of the Auditor General of New Brunswick

Under review: Report of the Auditor General of New Brunswick 2018 Volume I.

Volume I presented performance audit reports on WorkSafeNB governance and addiction and mental health services in provincial adult correctional institutions. The volume also presented the Auditor General's concerns on the provinces continuing fiscal decline and the Auditor General's eroding independence due to a lack of resources.