

## Preface

The Yukon Legislative Assembly appointed the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on March 25, 2003, during the first sitting of the First Session of the Thirty-First Yukon Legislature. The members appointed were:

Todd Hardy  
Hon. Dennis Fentie  
Hon. Peter Jenkins  
Patrick Rouble  
Eric Fairclough  
Pat Duncan

On May 5, 2003, pursuant to Standing Order 47(2) of the *Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly*, Dean Hassard was appointed as a substitute for Hon. Mr. Fentie. On May 17, 2004 the membership of the Committee was changed by Motion No. 301. At that time the appointments of Hon. Mr. Fentie and Hon. Mr. Jenkins were rescinded and Mr. Hassard and Brad Cathers were made permanent members of the Committee.

At its first meeting on May 6, 2003 Mr. Hardy was elected Chair of the Committee and Mr. Rouble was elected Vice-Chair.

Over the course of two meetings in the spring of 2003 the Committee familiarized itself with its mandate and role. The Committee then held a two-day retreat in September 2003 to set an agenda for public hearings to be held in 2004. Three officials from the Office of the Auditor General – Ron Thompson, Assistant Auditor General, Territorial Governments; Roger Simpson, Principal, Edmonton Regional Office; and Eric Hellsten, Principal, Vancouver Regional Office – assisted the Committee with its deliberations.

At this retreat the Committee decided to focus its first set of public hearings on the following entities:

- The Yukon Housing Corporation;
- The Yukon Development Corporation/ Yukon Energy Corporation/ Energy Solutions Centre Inc.;
- The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board;
- The Yukon Liquor Corporation/ Yukon Lotteries Commission;
- The Yukon Hospital Corporation; and
- Yukon College.

Specifically the focus was to be on the mandates of these entities and the extent to which these mandates are being fulfilled. This decision was made public by way of a news release in October 2003. To better inform the hearing process the

Committee decided to draft three questions relating to the mandate. These questions were sent to the entities in December 2003 and written responses were received in January 2004.

In this first report the Committee has decided to focus on cross entity issues relating to governance, performance accountability processes, the evolution of mandates, and the relationship that exists between these entities and the Legislative Assembly. The Committee's findings and recommendations are found in the body of this report. Appended to the report are transcripts of the public hearings held February 3-5, 2004 and the written responses submitted by the entities in response to the three questions about their mandate. Should it find sufficient reason to do so, the Committee will deal with entity-specific issues in a subsequent report.

The Committee would like to thank the officials from the Office of the Auditor General for their assistance in preparing the Committee for the hearings. The Committee would also like to thank the witnesses who appeared before it for the documentary information they provided and for their candid and forthright responses during the public hearings.