

Follow-Up Reports on *2016 Annual Report* Value-for-Money Audits

Summary

It is our practice to make specific recommendations in our value-for-money audit reports and ask ministries, agencies of the Crown and organizations in the broader public sector to provide a written response to each recommendation, which we include in our Annual Reports. Two years after we publish the recommendations and related responses, we follow up on the status of actions taken. The ministries, agencies of the Crown and organizations in the broader public sector are responsible for implementing the recommendations made by our Office; our role is to independently express a conclusion on the progress that the audited entity made in implementing the actions contained in each recommendation.

In each of the follow-up reports in this chapter, we provide background on the value-for-money audits reported on in Chapter 3 of our *2016 Annual Report* and describe the status of actions that have been taken to address our recommendations since that time, as reported by management.

In conducting the follow-up work, our Office complies with the Canadian Standard on Quality Control and the Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements—Direct Engagements established by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. The staff who conducted the follow-up work comply with the independence and other ethical require-

ments of the Rules of Professional Conduct issued by Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario.

Our follow-up work consists primarily of inquiries and discussions with the government, the relevant ministries or broader-public sector entities, a review of their status reports, and a review of selected supporting documentation. In a few cases, internal auditors also assisted us with this work. The procedures performed in this work vary in nature and timing from an audit and do not extend as far. As this is not an audit, we cannot provide a high level of assurance that the corrective actions described have been implemented effectively. The actions taken or planned may be more fully examined and reported on in future audits. Status reports will factor into our decisions on whether future audits should be conducted in these same areas.

With respect to the implementation status of the recommendations followed up, nothing has come to our attention to cause us to believe that the status representations made by entity management do not present fairly, in all significant respects, the progress made in implementing the recommendations.

As noted in **Figure 1**, progress has been made toward implementing 66% of our recommended actions, including 35% of them that have been fully implemented. The ministries that have made the most progress toward fully implementing our recommended actions from 2016 include the Ministry of Finance and Treasury Board Secretariat on our audit of the Public Accounts of the Province; the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on our

audit of Large Community Hospital Operations; and the Ministry of Transportation on our audit of Road Infrastructure Construction Contracts.

However, little or no progress has been made on 29% of our recommended actions. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services had made little or no progress on implementing close to 76% of the recommendations in our audit of Child and Youth Mental Health. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks had made little or no progress on 63% of recommended actions in the Environmental Assessments audit and 50% of the recommended actions in the Climate Change audit. For instance, no progress had been made by

the Ministry to improve the timeliness of its process for reviewing bump-up requests for environmental assessments to prevent unnecessary delays to projects. In fact, times have increased since the time of our audit.

Thirteen (3%) of our recommended actions are no longer applicable. This is primarily due to the changes made by the new government elected on June 7, 2018, and its decision to wind down the cap-and-trade system in Ontario.

A further eight action items (2%) will not be implemented. More specific details are presented in the sections that follow **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Overall Status of Implementation of Recommendations from Our 2016 Annual Report

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Report Section	# of Rees	# of Actions Recommended	Status of Actions Recommended				
			Fully Implemented	In Process of Being Implemented	Little or No Progress	Will Not Be Implemented	No Longer Applicable
1.01 Child and Youth Mental Health	11	22	1.75	3.5	16.75	0	0
1.02 Climate Change	16	28	3	0	14	0	11
1.03 Electronic Health Records' Implementation Status	12	23	6	15	2	0	0
1.04 Employment Ontario	18	35	5.5	15.5	12	1	1
1.05 Environmental Approvals	12	28	6	8	13	1	0
1.06 Environmental Assessments	12	19	4	3	12	0	0
1.07 Housing and Supportive Services for People with Mental Health Issues (Community-Based)	14	34	1	15	18	0	0
1.08 Large Community Hospital Operations	17	33	25	6	2	0	0
1.09 Metrolinx—Public Transit Construction Contract Awarding and Oversight	17	38	20	14	0	3	1
1.10 Ministry of Transportation—Road Infrastructure Construction Contract Awarding and Oversight	7	16	10	2	3	1	0
1.11 Physician Billing	14	29	6	8	14	1	0
1.12 Specialty Psychiatric Hospital Services	15	34	13	11	10	0	0
1.13 Supply Chain Ontario and Procurement Practices	12	20	12	6	2	0	0
1.14 The Provincial Public Appointment Process	6	14	10	4	0	0	0
1.15 Information and Information Technology General Controls	7	33	12	19	1	1	0
1.16 Public Accounts of the Province	10	15	13	2	0	0	0
Total	200	421	148.25	132	119.75	8	13
%	100	100	35	31	29	2	3