



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Auditor General Releases *2015 Annual Report*

(TORONTO) Today, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk's *2015 Annual Report* was tabled in the Ontario Legislature. It covered results from a wide range of value-for-money audits, including energy planning, health-care services, long-term-care homes, child welfare, infrastructure planning, and electricity transmission and distribution.

"This year's report shows there are numerous areas where improvements are needed to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of government and broader-public-sector services," Lysyk said.

There are 14 value-for-money audits contained in the Report, as well as a chapter on annual reports of government agencies and a section on government debt.

Findings in this year's Report include:

- A new computer system used in the administration of social assistance—[SAMS](#)—was launched prematurely with serious defects at a cost of over \$200 million, which was about \$40 million over budget, with additional costs to fix the defects that are expected to bring the total cost to about \$290 million.
- The government had a process in the *Electricity Act* and its regulations for drafting and approving a [long-term technical energy plan](#), but didn't follow it.
- The Ministry of Health and Long-term Care fell behind on its critical-incident and complaint [inspections](#) at the province's 630 long-term-care homes.
- The province has yet to correct many of the problems in the Home Care Program of Ontario's 14 [Community Care Access Centres](#) that were identified in an audit our Office completed five years ago.
- [Children's Aid Societies](#) are not always meeting provincial protection standards, may be closing cases too soon, and are taking too long to complete investigations of possible abuse.
- [The Ministry of Children and Youth Services](#) lacks sufficient information about the quality of care provided by Ontario's 47 Children's Aid Societies to oversee them effectively.
- Ontario's 14 [Local Health Integration Networks](#) have a mandate to plan, fund and integrate local health systems, but the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has not clearly outlined what the end result should look like and when it should be achieved.
- Ontario does not have co-ordinated plan or funding strategy in place for cleaning up [contaminated sites](#).
- The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines has not been effectively encouraging timely [mining](#) development in the province, even though Ontario has a significantly lower tax rate on mining than the national average. There is also a need for a long-term plan for inspecting and rehabilitating abandoned mine sites.

- In recent years, [Hydro One's](#) transmission and distribution systems have become less reliable, yet their costs are increasing.
- Given that Ontario plans to spend more than \$120 billion on [infrastructure](#) over the coming decade, it needs to better identify and prioritize where the spending should be directed.
- Eighty per cent of the new funding the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure approved in the last five years to support [businesses](#) went to select companies that were invited to apply for it.
- Although [school buses](#) are generally safe modes of transportation, government oversight should be strengthened to ensure that even more could be done to lower the risk to students.
- The Ministry of Research and Innovation does not track the total funding ministries and agencies invest in [research](#) and does not evaluate the impact of funded research. This results in difficulty determining whether value for money is being achieved.
- The annual reports of some of Ontario's largest [agencies](#) are not being made public in a timely manner—or not at all in some cases. The Ontario Legislature is therefore not up to date on all agencies' financial and other activities for the past year.

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For more information and to view the full report, please visit www.auditor.on.ca