

Reports on Value-for-money (VFM) Audits

Our value-for-money audits are intended to examine how well government and organizations in the broader public sector manage their programs and activities, to determine whether they comply with relevant legislation and authorities, and, most importantly, to identify any opportunities for improving the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness measures of their operations. These audits are conducted under subsection 12(2) of the *Auditor General Act*, which requires that the Office report on any cases observed where money was spent without due regard for economy and efficiency or where appropriate procedures were not in place to measure and report on the effectiveness of service delivery. This chapter contains the conclusions, observations, and recommendations for the value-for-money audits conducted in the past audit year.

The ministry programs and activities and the organizations in the broader public sector audited this year were selected by the Office's senior management on the basis of various criteria, such as a program's or organization's financial impact, its significance to the Legislative Assembly, related issues of public sensitivity and safety, and, in the case of ministry programs, the results of past audits

of the program. The selection of our first audits conducted in the broader public sector is discussed more fully in Chapter 2—Towards Better Accountability.

We plan, perform, and report on our value-for-money work in accordance with the professional standards for assurance engagements, encompassing value for money and compliance, established by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Before beginning an audit, our staff conduct in-depth research into the area to be audited and meet with auditee representatives to discuss the focus of the audit. During the audit, staff maintain an ongoing dialogue with the auditee to review the progress of the audit and ensure open lines of communication. At the conclusion of the audit fieldwork, which is normally completed by May of that audit year, a draft report is prepared, reviewed internally, and then discussed with the auditee. Senior Office staff meet with senior management from the ministry, agency, or organization in the broader public sector to discuss the final draft report and to finalize the management responses to our recommendations, which are then incorporated into the report at the end of each of the VFM sections.