

Follow-up on 2008 Value-for-money Audits

It is our practice to make specific recommendations in our value-for-money (VFM) 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 when we publish these audit reports in Chapter 3 of our Annual Report. Two years after we publish the recommendations and related responses, we follow up on the status of actions taken by management with respect to our recommendations.

Chapter 4 provides some background on the value-for-money audits reported on in Chapter 3 of our *2008 Annual Report* and describes the status of action that has been taken to address our recommendations since that time as reported by management.

For several of these audits, hearings were also held and reports issued by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Committee's reports generally endorse the recommendations we made and contain further recommendations that, in addition to covering other matters arising during the hearings, often require further updates from the

audited organization on the progress being made in addressing our recommendations. Such additional reporting helps to ensure that action is being taken and progress being made in addressing the issues raised. Chapter 6 describes the Committee's activities more fully.

We are pleased to be able to report that for over 90% of the recommendations we made in 2008, management has indicated that progress is being made toward implementing our recommendations, with substantial progress reported for nearly half. We found similar progress in the two previous years as well.

Our follow-up work consists primarily of inquiries and discussions with management and review of selected supporting documentation. In a few cases, the organization's internal auditors also assisted with this work. This is not an audit, and accordingly, we cannot provide a high level of assurance that the corrective actions described have been implemented effectively. The corrective actions taken or planned will be more fully examined and reported on in future audits and may impact our assessment of when future audits should be considered.