



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Service Agency

MURRAY WANTS EXCELLENCE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

VICTORIA – The Auditor General’s report on the work environment in B.C.’s public service reflects both the widespread improvement and the challenges faced by a rapidly changing organization, Joyce Murray, Minister Responsible for the Public Service Agency, said today.

“The report indicates that we are on the right track with improvement occurring in 80 per cent, 40 of 48 subsections surveyed, but government still has a lot of work to do,” said Murray. “I want to see excellence in the public service, and I am pleased to accept the challenge the Auditor General has set.”

The findings and conclusions of the Auditor General’s 2005 report, “Building a Strong Public Service: Reassessing the Quality of the Work Environment in the British Columbia Public Service (2005)”, are based on a government-wide electronic survey sent to a representative sample of 6,000 public service employees in all 19 government ministries in November 2003.

The survey was undertaken when many ministries were still involved in Workforce Adjustment. Many staff members had new roles and some organizations had completely new mandates. Despite that, the survey still shows improvement.

This report, based on 2003 data, follows on the Auditor General’s earlier 2002 report, “Building a Strong Work Environment in British Columbia’s Public Service”, which was based on a survey done in January 2001. The 2002 report contained a number of recommendations, which have all been acted upon by the Province. In particular, government put into action a corporate human resources strategy and a workforce adjustment transition plan.

“I want to thank the Auditor General for producing this instructive report. By comparing us to the top 50 Canadian companies, he has set the bar high,” said Murray. “Research on organizational transformation consistently shows that change takes time, likely many years. I am confident that B.C.’s dedicated public servants are up to the challenge and that when the next survey is done in November 2005, we will see an even greater measure of improvement.”

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