



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Oct. 30, 2014

Largest financial audit in BC tells an interesting story

VICTORIA— The Auditor General of BC, Carol Bellringer, has published her annual report on government's 2013-14 summary financial statements, the largest financial audit in British Columbia. The audit took almost 65 staff approximately 49,000 hours to complete and required assistance from 28 private-sector auditing firms.

At the end of every fiscal year, the Province combines the financial results of its entities including ministries, Crown corporations, colleges, school districts, universities, health organizations and other public-sector entities and produces a consolidated set of summary financial statements.

The Office found that the statements were presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector with the exception of one area of concern (our qualification) pertaining to the inappropriate deferral of revenues. Government should have reflected an extra \$232 million in revenue in the statements.

“I would like to work with government over the coming year to be able to remove this qualification,” explains Bellringer. “This would allow British Columbians to focus beyond the bottom line to the interesting story contained in the statements.”

Government's financial statements tell an interesting story of the province's financial health. This year's report contains a new section to help British Columbians better understand the valuable information within the statements.

For example, did you know that government earned \$601 million from the sale of assets last year? This contributed significantly to the balanced budget. As noted in the report though, these assets can only be sold once and are not a reliable, continuing source of revenue.

More examples are available in the report, which is available on the Office of the Auditor General website at *2014 Summary Financial Statements and Auditor General's Findings*: www.bcauditor.com/pubs

An additional resource published in June 2014, *Understanding Canadian Public Sector Financial Statements*, at <http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs/2014/special/understanding-canadian-public-sector-financial-statements> can help those who are not familiar with public sector financial statements improve their ability to review and interpret government financial reports.

About the Office of the Auditor General of BC

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

2014 Summary Financial Statements and Auditor General's Findings: www.bcauditor.com/pubs



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

For more information or to speak with the Auditor General, please contact:

Office of the Auditor General
250 419-6100 or kmyers@bcauditor.com

NOTE: We are in the midst of moving. If you can't reach us by phone, please email us and we will get back to you right away.

To subscribe to receive report e-notifications, visit: <http://www.bcauditor.com/reach/subscribe>