



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 12th, 2016

Auditor General finds good management practices at schools, universities and colleges

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General released two reports today - one on budget management and monitoring in school districts, and the other on procurement of buildings at colleges and universities.

Both reports point to good practices in budgeting and management, as well as procurement processes for campus buildings. They also identified areas for improvement.

Regarding *Improving Budgeting and Expenditure Management in the Public Education System*, some school boards have been surprised in the past by unexpected year-end deficits. Ultimately, strong planning and monitoring processes help ensure the best spending decisions are made and spending tracks to the plan; therefore, the report contains suggestions for any school district to consider for improving its long-term planning and budgeting, engaging with stakeholders, and improving scrutiny over spending.

“We’ve written this report so that any district can learn something from it,” says Auditor General Carol Bellringer. “Six of the eight recommendations are for all districts to consider and we’ve included a good practice guide and checklist to help school boards self-assess their management of budgets and expenses.”

In *An Audit of Mid-Size Capital Procurement in Post-Secondary Institutions*, the audit team found that the Ministry of Advanced Education’s major campus building projects met budget and construction goals. The ministry also followed good practice for implementation, monitoring and reporting processes during construction. The audit team found that the ministry was not meeting government’s framework or the ministry’s guide when the projects it audited were planned. The ministry has since improved its planning processes.

“The institutions included in our audit lacked conflict of interest policies around capital procurement, but they’ve now rolled out new policies,” says Bellringer. “For both of these audits, we’ve encountered the best case scenario: by the time we were finished, action on all of our recommendations was underway,” said Bellringer.

Both reports are available on the Office of the Auditor General website www.bcauditor.com

Auditor General Carol Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to the reports via a teleconference.

Teleconference Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2016



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

Time: 11:30am (Pacific Time)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant Pass Code: 44848#

To ask a question during question and answer period: Press 01

To exit the question queue during question and answer period: Press #

About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.

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 to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us:

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For general questions, call Colleen Rose, Manager, Communications: 250 419-6207

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