



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New auditor general status report provides updates for changes to upcoming audits

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia has released a report, which outlines the status of audits that have changed due to decisions made by the office as a result of evolving circumstances.

The purpose of the report is to maintain transparency for planned audit work, provide an update, and keep the legislative assembly and people of B.C. informed of changes.

“There are many reasons why an audit’s status may change,” said Michael Pickup, auditor general. “Circumstances like the pandemic, new workforce plans, or significant changes in the auditees’ approach impact our audit work. Postponing an audit can allow us to incorporate the most current information and ensure that the results are relevant and add value.”

Of the 10 performance audits covered in the report, most were postponed for pandemic-related reasons impacting government operations or significant changes to program approaches, business plans and processes.

The high-profile audit of **BC Hydro’s Site C Dam** was postponed as the government took time to complete its own review of the project. As the outcome of that review may inform the audit, the office delayed the audit to ensure its work considers the most relevant information.

The office also decided to pause audit work on the **Legislative Assembly of British Columbia** for up to two years to provide time for it to implement existing recommendations to strengthen governance and controls. Postponing the audit allows time to evaluate changing practices and helps avoid repeating work that has already been done by the office.

In addition, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Vancouver Coastal Health asked the office to delay the audit of **substance use services** because they are focused on the pandemic. Proceeding as originally planned could have diverted critical resources and focus away from clinical care and the COVID-19 response.

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OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

About the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

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

For general questions and interview requests:

[Julie Gauthier](#)

Communications Manager

250-419-6204

www.bcauditor.com

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