



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Auditor General says good government oversight of the new joint management of BC's public sector pension plans is needed**

VICTORIA — Auditor General Wayne Strelieff today released his report on government oversight of public sector pension plans in British Columbia. The four pension plans involved are the College, Municipal, Public Service and Teachers'.

Until two years ago, these plans were managed by the provincial government. In July 1999, new legislation resulted in the devolution of control and the establishment of joint management agreements between government and other stakeholders, including the unions, that represented the plan members.

"That change was significant," said Strelieff, "because it left government with less control over the plans than previously. However, government continues to be a major contributor to each plan, as well as being responsible with the other employers for half of any unfunded liability."

Strelieff's staff carried out a review to assess whether the government was aware of the risks associated with the new pension plan arrangements, and whether it was managing those risks adequately.

"We concluded," said Strelieff, "that the government has adequately identified and managed the risks related to the devolution of the plans. As well, we believe that the government generally achieved what it wanted to by entering into the new arrangements."

Two areas that need work are the ongoing monitoring of the plans and public reporting. According to Strelieff, the government should strengthen its monitoring capacity and ensure it has access to all of the information it needs to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.

Strelieff also stresses the importance of a strong working relationship between the government and other plan partners in dealing with these and other pension plan governance issues.

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[2002/2003 Report #9: A Review of Government Oversight of Multi-Employer Public Sector Pension Plans in British Columbia](#)

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