



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Auditor General's final report focuses on the state of accountability reform**

VICTORIA—In his final report today, Auditor General, Wayne Strelieff describes the significant accountability reforms now underway and the steps BC's legislators and government need to take next.

“When I took on the responsibilities of BC's Auditor General in May 2000,” says Mr. Strelieff, “the time was right for significant accountability reform as controversy was raging about fast ferry construction, incomplete budgets, inaccurate financial statements and the absence of performance information.”

After six years as BC's Auditor General, Mr. Strelieff uses his final report to describe several significant accountability reforms beginning to take hold and to set out what needs to be done next.

Key accountability reforms taking hold include: a fixed timetable for government to present its performance plans; more rigorous accounting disclosure through the use of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); timelier performance reporting; a more results focused management approach with agreement on a framework of principles to help government plan, monitor and explain its performance; and a solid, new Auditor General Act.

Mr. Strelieff also provides advice to legislators and government on what needs to be done next to help put in place a more robust and meaningful public scrutiny of the performance of government. His advice focuses on financial statement accounting, performance reporting and legislator leadership.

Mr. Strelieff's six year term ends May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Legislators are now searching for his successor.

## **Summary of recommendations and observations**

### **Recommendations**

- Individual ministries should publish financial statements.
- Government should provide legislators with a multi-year accounting of financial results based on generally accepted accounting principles.
- School boards, universities, colleges and health authorities should publish performance plans and reports.
- Government organizations should describe within their annual performance reports what they do to ensure their performance information is accurate.
- Standing committees should review the annual performance plans and reports of government organizations and then provide their advice on future direction to the responsible minister.
- The government's second and third quarter financial updates should be examined by the Auditor General.
- Legislators should undertake to provide their next Auditor General with the funding required to support an office of significantly greater capacity.

### Observations

- Legislators must encourage, lead and champion accountability reform through supporting legislation.
- Rigorous accounting measurement and disclosure discipline must be guarded vigorously to ensure off balance sheet liabilities or assets do not emerge in the future.

Public business should be public.

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### **2006/07 Report #1 – Strengthening Public Accountability: (a journey on a road that never ends).**

[Download complete report in .PDF format](#) (size 129 KB)

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