

## ***BACKGROUND***

**For Immediate Release**

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### **IT CONTINUITY PLANNING IN GOVERNMENT**

In British Columbia, the provincial government relies on information technology (IT) for a wide range of activities, from service delivery, to information sharing, to supporting critical programs. A disruption to any of these services, leading to loss of information or the ability to process information, can have serious consequences for government programs.

IT continuity planning aims to minimize the potential consequences of a disruption to IT services and systems. Disruptions such as power outages, fires, criminal acts or earthquakes may be either localized events (affecting one building or system) or major disasters (affecting numerous systems and resulting in the relocation of IT processing for an extended period). A good IT continuity plan is part of the larger business continuity process to prepare for the response, recovery and continuity of government's business, in the face of either a localized or major disruption.

In early 2009, the provincial government identified 49 "program mission-critical" and 22 "support mission-critical" business functions. A sample of these business functions was selected for the audit, and the processes to ensure the continued operation of the required IT systems and services were assessed. Detailed management reports were sent to each audited ministry covering their individual results. The key audit findings are:

- improvements to identification of risks and prioritization of recovery are needed;
- not all critical business functions have IT continuity plans; and
- processes are not always adequate to ensure IT recovery plans are appropriate and complete, routinely tested, and kept current.

These key findings, and recommendations for addressing them, are detailed in the public report.

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### **2010/11 Report #1 – IT Continuity Planning in Government**

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