



**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Three-year plan set for public sector financial audits**

VICTORIA – B.C.'s auditor general has issued an updated three-year plan for auditing the financial statements of the central provincial government, plus 138 other public sector organizations.

The Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts reviewed and approved the plan on November 29, 2023.

"The coverage plan helps my office fulfill its role as the independent audit office of the legislature. It ensures we maintain the right depth and breadth of knowledge about government operations and that we focus our efforts on areas of risk," Auditor General Michael Pickup said.

The plan divides audit work between the auditor general's staff and private firms.

It also reports on the auditor general's level of involvement in the audits of organizations that are outside of central government, including Crown corporations, universities, colleges, school districts, health authorities and other entities. There are three levels of involvement:

- **High** – The Office of the Auditor General performs the audit directly.
- **Moderate** – Private sector auditors perform the audit with oversight by the auditor general's office (e.g., meeting the organization's auditor, reviewing the auditor's work).
- **Limited** – Private sector auditors perform the audit. The auditor general maintains written communication with the organization's auditor and conducts audit work as needed.

A few of the changes of the auditor general's involvement in the new plan are:

- The British Columbia Liquor Distribution Branch, which had been audited under contract by a private sector audit firm, has moved to oversight (or "moderate" involvement of the auditor general), beginning with fiscal 2024; and
- The Office of the Auditor General will, for the first time, become the direct auditor ("high" level of involvement) of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission (BC Housing) and the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation, starting with fiscal year 2026.

"The first step in preparing the audit coverage plan looks at the financial size of the government organization," Pickup said. "We see if it has high public interest or a higher risk related to its programs. We also assess its complexity or likelihood of having issues that could materially affect the province's Summary Financial Statements."

The audit of the Summary Financial Statements, which includes the independent auditor's report, provides assurance to MLAs, British Columbians, and credit rating agencies on whether the statements fairly present the financial position and operating results of government.

Last year's statements included provincial revenue of \$82 billion and expenses of \$81 billion. Assets and liabilities were \$132 billion and \$129 billion in the last fiscal year.



Office of the  
**Auditor General**  
of British Columbia

**Related links**

Financial Statement Audit Coverage Plan for the fiscal years ending in 2025, 2026, and 2027:

<https://www.oag.bc.ca/pubs/2023/financial-statement-audit-coverage-plan-financial-statement-fiscal-years-ending-252627>

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