



NEWS RELEASE

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Auditor General seeks continued improvement in government's public performance reporting

VICTORIA – The Auditor General Wayne Strelieff today released a report on his review of the quality of government's performance reports, entitled "Building Better Reports: Our Review of the 2002/03 Annual Service Plan Reports of Government." Strelieff reviewed the annual reports of 34 government organizations because he believes these reports are key to meeting the accountability obligation government owes the public.

Strelieff concluded the annual reports do not yet contain enough appropriate information to give a full understanding of government's performance, although most do show improvement over last year. "Improving the quality of government's public performance reports matters," said Strelieff. "Such reports can show how effectively government organizations have performed, the fundamental choices they faced, and the decisions they made with respect to these choices. This information is critical to government in its management of public resources and to the Legislative Assembly and public in assessing how well those resources were managed."

The Auditor General acknowledged that an important step had been reached this past year when reporting principles for the BC public sector were established. These principles, agreed-upon by government, the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Assembly and the Auditor General, set out the elements that a complete and credible report should contain. "In essence," said Strelieff, "the principles provide the basis on which government should tell its performance story." Given this, the Auditor General fully expects that future performance reports will provide legislators and the public with meaningful information about the planned and actual performance of the government.

The Auditor General encourages all government organizations to continue to work toward reflecting good performance reporting principles in their annual reports. "Open, transparent and credible reporting over the long-term will require significant resolve from both legislators and government organizations who prepare public plans and reports" he said. "Government has committed to continuously enhancing its public performance reporting and my Office will continue to help improve the quality of that reporting through reviews such as this."

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2003/04 Report #7 - Building Better Reports: Our Review of the 2002/03 Annual Service Plan Reports of Government.

[Download complete report in .PDF format](#) (size 1,053 KB)

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