

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

March 30, 2020

## **Next three years of auditor general projects released**

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia has released its annual performance and financial statement audit coverage plans.

“Sharing our audit intentions publicly is an important part of maintaining transparency and engaging with our stakeholders,” said Russ Jones, acting auditor general.

The office is responsible for the overall financial statement audit of government. Financial audits provide assurance to legislators, credit rating agencies and the people of British Columbia as to whether the financial statements fairly present the financial position and operating results of government.

The office’s financial statement audit coverage plan is approved by the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts each year and shows which of the approximately 140 government organizations are audited by the office or a private-sector firm. These individual audits are components of the office’s annual audit of government’s summary financial statements, which is the largest financial audit in the province.

“One of the goals of our Financial Statement Audit Coverage Plan is to ensure that we have the right depth and breadth of knowledge about the business of government, so that we can focus our efforts on risk areas, while also fulfilling our role as the independent audit office of the province,” Jones said.

As well as financial audits, the office conducts performance audits to assess the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of provincial programs, services and resources. The performance audit plan lists in-progress audits, as well as those that the office anticipates starting over the next three years.

The office has several performance audits nearing completion. Reports scheduled to be released this year include: an audit of palliative care at Interior Health, and an audit of the Provincial Nominee Program. The office has also started planning audits on cancer care, Community Living British Columbia and medical devices cybersecurity. In 2020, the office removed 18 performance audit topics from its plan. In most cases, these topic areas changed or were recently reviewed or audited by government.

The office endeavours to undertake work that is relevant and reflects the realities of people living in British Columbia. To do this, it considers several performance audit topics each year from a variety of sources and uses a robust planning and consultation process to determine which audits to undertake. Considerations include the significance, risk, relevance, timing and impact on both taxpayers and those being audited. The office aims to make the best use of its resources and chooses audits with the greatest value to MLAs and the people of British Columbia.

These plans reflect the office’s current priorities, but, like any plan, are subject to change. B.C.

is in the midst of a public health crisis and it's expected that COVID-19 will have some impact on the nature and timing of the office's work. A new auditor general will start work in July. As has been the case in the past, the office will update next year's plans with any changes that are made.

Both coverage plans are available on the Office of the Auditor General's website at: <https://www.bcauditor.com/pubs>

Audit suggestions can be sent via: [www.bcauditor.com/reach](http://www.bcauditor.com/reach)

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

The auditor general is a non-partisan, independent officer of the legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The Auditor General Act empowers the auditor general and staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

#### **Contact us:**

To speak to the acting auditor general, call Elaine Hepburn at 250 419-6108.

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