



Standing Committee on Public Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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Halifax

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Honourable Keith Bain
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the committee for September 2021 to August 2022 of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Regan".

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA
(Bedford Basin)
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2022

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INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts, an all-party committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(b) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly*:

(b) the Public Accounts Committee is established for the purpose of reviewing the public accounts, the annual report or other reports of the Auditor General, and any other financial matters respecting the public funds of the province.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Public Accounts Committee is as follows:

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA – Chair
Bedford Basin

Trevor Boudreau, MLA
Richmond

Nolan Young, MLA – Vice Chair
Shelburne

Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
Halifax Atlantic

Dave Ritcey, MLA
Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River

Susan Leblanc, MLA
Dartmouth North

John A. MacDonald, MLA
Hants East

Kendra Coombes, MLA
Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier

Melissa Sheehy-Ricard, MLA
Hants West

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Kendra Coombes, MLA, replaced Claudia Chender, MLA, in June 2022.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Public Accounts Committee meets weekly on Wednesday, in the morning. Meetings are held in the Legislative Chamber in Province House.

The Auditor General for the Province of Nova Scotia attends all meetings of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND PROCEDURES

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts' all-party Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and a member of the third party. In recent years a Member of the Official Opposition has also been named to the Subcommittee. The Auditor General and staff attend the meetings of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures, as well.

The Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures meets in camera at the call of the Chair to review and propose topics to be scheduled before the Public Accounts Committee, assist in finalizing reports, review sensitive documents, monitor the progress of the committee's work and other matters as deemed necessary.

When meeting to review topics for scheduling, a Record of Decision is prepared by the clerk once the subcommittee has reached agreement on the topics to be proposed to the standing committee. The Record of Decision is placed on the agenda for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the standing committee. The standing committee may approve the topics as proposed or may amend the Record of Decision. Once approved, the clerk proceeds to schedule witnesses to appear before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The membership of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures is:

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA – Chair
Bedford Basin

Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
Halifax Atlantic

Nolan Young, MLA – Vice Chair
Shelburne

Susan Leblanc, MLA
Dartmouth North

NOTICES

Notice of Public Accounts Committee meetings is sent to all members of the committee, staff of the caucus offices, Legislative staff, the Auditor General's Office and the House of Assembly Press Gallery. The notices are also posted in Province House and on the committee's web page at the following address: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/public-accounts>

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts of all Public Accounts Committee public hearings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office or on the Public Accounts Committee's web page at the following address: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/public-accounts/archive/public-accounts>

ANNUAL REPORTS

All reports of the Public Accounts Committee are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the report, the Chair tables the report with the Speaker of the House of Assembly or with the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Distribution of the report is as follows:

To the Speaker and to the Clerk of the House of Assembly, committee members, all witnesses who appeared before the committee, the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, the Auditor General's Office, the caucus offices and the media. The report is also available to the general public upon request through the Legislative Committees Office, and is available on the committees' web page at the following address:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/public-accounts/reports>

RESEARCH MATERIAL

All research for the Public Accounts Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the committee clerk. Research material is compiled in an electronic format and is distributed by the committee clerk prior to the meeting to members, staff, and witnesses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts wishes to extend its gratitude to the witnesses for their time and co-operation. Special appreciation is extended to the Legislative Committees Office; Hansard Reporting Services; Legislative Television and Broadcast Services, and the Nova Scotia Legislative Library.

**STANDING
COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

MEETINGS**

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

November 10, 2021

WITNESSES

No witnesses were present.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

This was the first meeting of the newly constituted committee. The Chair provided a brief overview of the committee mandate and procedures. The Auditor General and Chief Legislative Counsel also provided the committee with an overview of their role. A number of decisions were made by the committee:

A motion was put forward:

- That the subcommittee continue to be made up of the Chair, the Vice Chair, a member of the Official Opposition and a member of the Third Party.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- The committee meet weekly except as determined by the committee; that the committee review the Public Accounts, the annual report, and other reports of the Auditor General, and any other financial matters respecting the public funds of the Province as provided by subparagraph (2)(a) of Rule 60 of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly; and for greater certainty, the resolutions of September 26, 2018, and February 6, 2019, respecting the agenda and meeting of the committee are rescinded.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

It was agreed to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes.

A motion was put forward:

- That the Public Accounts Committee meet for two-hour in camera sessions following any Auditor General Report with the understanding that the following week we would then meet for a regular, public meeting of the Public Accounts Committee session where we would talk to department witnesses relating to the previous Auditor General's Report.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

It was agreed to hold a training session with the Department of Finance and Treasury Board regarding the Public Accounts.

It was agreed to hold a training session with the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation after the committee has been operating for a time, as suggested by the Auditor General.

It was agreed to have the Auditor General provide an orientation session to the committee.

It was agreed to extend the meeting time to 10:30 am.

Correspondence was received from:

- Nova Scotia Government and Employees Union
 - Request to have item added to the committee's agenda

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee review the Ombudsman report and consider the operational and departmental oversight failures at Island Employment, as well as consider broadly government oversight of third-party use of public funds, at the next possible Public Accounts Committee meeting that has no agenda attached to it.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20211110.pdf

In Camera

WITNESSES

Department of Finance and Treasury Board

Geoff Gatien – Associate Deputy Minister/Controller

Dana Jasper – Director, Financial Accounting

Justin Melnyk – Senior Advisor to Controller

Officials from the Department of Finance and Treasury Board provided committee members with a training session regarding the Public Accounts.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was agreed to make public the decisions made at the in camera meeting regarding witnesses for the December 1st meeting.

A motion was put forward:

- That we call the witnesses as emailed out just now for the December 1st meeting regarding COVID spending.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we invite Finance and Treasury Board, Economic Development, Develop Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust to be here.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we invite i-Valley, the president and vice president, to be present at the December 1st meeting to consider the Auditor General's Report on internet.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

**2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – VALUE FOR MONEY OF EARLY
COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES:
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; FINANCE AND
TREASURY BOARD**

2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – INTERNET FOR NOVA SCOTIA

November 24, 2021

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General

Michelle Edmonds – Audit Principal

Emily Dickey – Audit Principal

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided a briefing to committee members regarding the Value for Money of Early Covid-19 Relief Programs for Individuals and Small Businesses and Internet for Nova Scotia audits.

2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – VALUE FOR MONEY OF EARLY COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES: EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND TREASURY BOARD

2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – INTERNET FOR NOVA SCOTIA

December 1, 2021

WITNESSES

Department of Finance and Treasury Board

Geoff Gatien – Associate Deputy Minister/Controller

Robert Bourgeois – Executive Director, Government Accounting

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Sara Halliday – Acting Associate Deputy Minister

Denise Stone – Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care

David Potter – Executive Director, Financial Services

Department of Economic Development

Scott Farmer – Deputy Minister

Mike Queripel – Executive Director

Develop Nova Scotia

Jennifer Angel – President and CEO

Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust

Margaret MacDonald – Chair of Trustees

Dalhousie University

Matt Hebb – VP, Government & Global Relations

i-VALLEY

Terry Dalton – President

Barry Gander – Co-Founder

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the November 17, 2021, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

The following motions were put forward:

- That for the first topic, which is child protection service caseloads, to add Alex Stratford, the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers, as a witness.

- Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
- Motion defeated

- I move the adoption of the record of decision on November 17th as distributed.
 - Moved by Dave Ritcey, MLA
 - Motion carried

- To recall Jennifer Angel, Margaret MacDonald, Terry Dalton and Barry Gander to talk about the Internet project.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc

An amendment was put forward:

- To add them to the next round after the current list.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Tracey Taweel - Deputy Minister, Community Services and Status of Women	Child Protection Services Caseloads
Scott Farmer - Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Environment and Climate Change	NS Cap and Trade Program
Paul LaFleche, Departments of Seniors and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing	Housing Repair Programs for Low Income Seniors
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness CEO of Nova Scotia Health Authority	The decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board
Departmental Representatives from Economic Development, Public Works, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Review of Crown Corporations, including their creation and dismantling (Focus on Tourism and Housing)
Department of Housing, Department of Community Services, AHANS	Economic impact of homelessness and return on investment of housing provision
EHS, NSH, Department of Health and Wellness, IOUE 727	EHS contract and service delivery
Office of the Auditor General	Auditor General Report - Planning and Implementation of the Pre-Primary Program Auditor General Report - Follow-up of 2016, 2017 and 2018 Performance Audit Recommendations IN CAMERA

	(Note: Reports Released July 7, 2021, and not able to be dealt with)
Department of Finance and Treasury Board, Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services and Department of Natural Resources and Renewables	Report of the Auditor General – 2021 Financial Report

Other Items:

Procedure for Selection of Witnesses re: Auditor General Reports

- Witnesses, as recommended by the Auditor General in relation to upcoming reports, will be accepted and put forward to the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

Action Plans on Auditor General Recommendations

- To continue the practice of requesting Action Plans from departments that have received recommendations from the Auditor General when a report is released. Template attached. (Action Plans are to be returned within 4 weeks and an updated Action Plan is requested one year later. The Action Plan provides an update on a department’s implementation status of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.)
- The Subcommittee will revisit the practice at a future meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

- <https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2021CovidrelieffullWeb.pdf>
- <https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2021InternetFullWeb.pdf>

TRANSCRIPT

- https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20211201.pdf

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

December 8, 2021

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Morgan McWade – Assistant Auditor General

Kirk Robinson – Senior Audit Principal

Janet White – Audit Principal

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided a briefing to committee members regarding the 2021 Financial Report of the Auditor General.

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

December 15, 2021

WITNESSES

Department of Finance and Treasury Board

Kelliann Dean – Deputy Minister

Lilani Kumaranayake – Executive Director, Fiscal Policy, Economic and Budgetary Planning

Rob Bourgeois – Executive Director, Government Accounting

Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

Karen Gatien – Deputy Minister

Peter Geddes – Executive Director, Regional Services

Michael O’Brien – Executive Director, Finance and Treasury Board

Donnie Burke – Executive Director, Environmental Assessment and Regulation, Nova Scotia Lands

Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services

Natasha Clarke – Associate Deputy Minister and Chief Digital Officer

Mary Archibald – Executive Director Financial Services

Chris Mitchell – Executive Director Procurement and Chief Procurement Officer

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
 - Request to delay appearance

It was agreed to go forward with the meeting as planned.

A change had occurred in the Deputy Minister responsible for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, who had been previously approved to appear. A motion was put forward:

- To have the current deputy appear.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

It was also agreed that there was no need for Deputy Farmer to appear as the Deputy Minister for the Department of Economic Development.

DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation was tabled:

- Cyber security requires a multi-layered approach
 - Tabled by Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Finance and Treasury Board:

- Provide an update on the work of the Economic Growth Council.
- When can we expect the release of the second report of the Economic Growth Council, and does this council still exist and advising this government?

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

<https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2021FinancialFullWeb.pdf>

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20211215.pdf

ORIENTATION SESSION

January 12, 2022

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General

Morgan McWade – Assistant Auditor General

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided an orientation session to committee members.

**OPERATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT FAILURES AT ISLAND
EMPLOYMENT AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OF THIRD-PARTY
USE OF FUNDS**

January 19, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Ava Czapalay – Deputy Minister

Nancy Hoddinott – Senior Executive Director, Skills and Learning Branch

Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman

William A. Smith - Ombudsman

Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union

Jason MacLean – President

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts move to a virtual format until Public Health recommends otherwise.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Finance and Treasury Board
 - Information requested from the December 15, 2021, meeting
- Nolan Young correspondence
- Emails from Karen Oldfield and Jeannine Lagassé
 - Regarding request to appear with respect to the Decision to Dismantle the Health Authority Board

A motion was put forward:

- To keep the two witnesses that we had previously reached out to and to add two witnesses: the Premier’s Chief of Staff, Nicole LaFosse Parker; and the chair of his transition team, Scott McCrae.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the government caucus come back with names that they deem to be

appropriate for the discussion of this particular issue.

- Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee continues to require and request Jeannine Lagassé and Karen Oldfield to appear before the Public Accounts Committee on that topic – the decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion rescinded

A motion was put forward:

- That this item be deferred for one week.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the meeting by 30 minutes.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee write to the Auditor General in support of the request from the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union that the Office of the Auditor General undertake an audit of operations at Island Employment.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220119.pdf

**2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PRE-PRIMARY PROGRAM**

**2021 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – FOLLOW-UP OF 2016, 2017
AND 2018 PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

January 26, 2022

**In Camera
Video Conference**

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General

Adam Harding – Senior Audit Principal

Emily Dickey – Audit Principal

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided a briefing to committee members regarding the Planning and Implementation of the Pre-Primary Program and Follow-up of 2016, 2017 and 2018 Performance Audit Recommendations audits.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Nolan Young
 - Correspondence to the Chair dated January 29, 2022, and the Chair’s response
- A motion was put forward:
- I move that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, in light of the requests from the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, write to the Office of the Auditor General to initiate an audit of operations at Island Employment.

○ Moved by Nolan Young, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- To add that includes a forensic aspect to the audit.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried
- Emails from Karen Oldfield and Jeannine Lagassé
 - Regarding Request to appear with respect to the Decision to Dismantle the Health Authority Board

A motion was put forward:

- To add as witnesses the Chief of Staff and Head of the Transition Team or a member of the Transition team regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- For the PC Party to come back next week with 2 names besides those who have already been chosen regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brenda Maguire,
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the decisions made here today be made public and part of the public record.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

Video Conference

WITNESSES

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Lora MacEachern – Deputy Minister

Jason Hollett – Associate Deputy Minister

Nancy Rondeaux – Executive Director, Climate Change

Michelle Miller – Manager, Climate Change Mitigation

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Karen Oldfield and Jeannine Lagassé
 - Response regarding request to appear with respect to the Decision to Dismantle the Health Authority Board

A clarification was sought regarding a witness with respect to the topic EHS Contract and Service Delivery. It was clarified that Emergency Medical Care Inc. (EMCI) is the correct witness, not Emergency Health Services (EHS).

A motion was put forward:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report Briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- When we have Auditor General briefings in camera, the agenda shall have no committee business without the unanimous support of the committee.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

A motion was put forward:

- That this item be deferred to the next meeting, which I believe is February 9th.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To add Premier Houston to the list of witnesses, speaking on the decision to dismantle

the Health Authority Board.

- Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- Recorded vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the former CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority, Dr. Brendan Carr, be added to the witness list regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (7 Yeas/2 Nays)
 - Motion carried

A request to extend the meeting time was made but was not agreed to.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220202.pdf

Video Conference

WITNESSES

Department of Economic Development

Scott Farmer – Deputy Minister

Department of Public Works

Peter Hackett – Deputy Minister

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Justin Huston – Deputy Minister

Darlene MacDonald – Acting Executive Director, Tourism Nova Scotia

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motion and Amendment deferred from February 2, 2022, meeting:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report Briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

Amendment:

- When we have Auditor General briefings in camera, the agenda shall have no committee business without the unanimous support of the committee.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

A motion was put forward:

- I am withdrawing the motion.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried unanimously

A motion was put forward:

- I am withdrawing my amendment.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried unanimously

A motion was put forward:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training. In the event there is a need to make a decision in a timely way, the committee could

conduct business in camera, with the unanimous support of the entire committee

- Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
- Recorded Vote (7 Yeas/2 Nays)
- Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the member for Halifax Atlantic please table any documents that indicate “the completion of all [government priorities] will happen in 90 days” as he referenced earlier.

- Moved by Nolan Young, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not brought to a vote.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage:

- Provide the information around when you met with Sydney and Halifax International Airport folks.
- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Economic Development:

- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Public Works:

- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220209.pdf

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT AND SERVICE DELIVERY

February 16, 2022

Video Conference

WITNESSES

Department of Health and Wellness

Craig Beaton – Associate Deputy Minister

Dr. Andrew Travers – Provincial Medical Director for EHS

Emergency Medical Care Inc.

Charbel Daniel – Executive Director, Provincial Operations

Jan Jensen – Executive Director, Medical Communications, Patient Flow & System Performance

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 727

Kevin MacMullin – Business Manager/CEO

Michael Nickerson – Business Agent

Samantha Hamilton – President, Executive Board

Nova Scotia Health Authority

Victoria L. Sullivan, BN, RN, MHS – Interim Vice President of Operations, Central Zone

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Nolan Young
 - Correspondence to the Chair dated February 10, 2022, and the Chair’s Response

A motion was put forward:

- That we begin meeting in person as a Public Accounts Committee going forward.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- That if we do know that witnesses are coming forward and how many there are going to be, that we vote previously, maybe the week before via email to ensure that if we need to go virtual, we can so that it doesn’t take up committee time.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
 - Amendment defeated
 - Recorded Vote (Unanimous)
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we extend the committee for 10 minutes.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220216.pdf

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES CASELOADS

February 23, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Tracey Taweel – Deputy Minister

Tracy Embrett – Executive Director, Children, Youth and Family Supports

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- That the PAC Committee continue in-person meetings and when necessary to accommodate Public Health protocols, have witnesses appear virtually.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

Motion deferred from January 12, 2022:

- That the subcommittee meet to draft a statement of purpose and values and to draft a motion around the Public Accounts Committee affirming a willingness to work collaboratively.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- That this be the first topic in a PAC training session facilitated by the Auditor General: that the PAC meet to draft a statement of purpose and values and to draft a motion around the PAC affirming a willingness to work collaboratively.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried

Motion deferred from February 9, 2022:

- That the member for Halifax Atlantic please table any documents that indicate “the completion of all [government priorities] will happen in 90 days” as he referenced earlier.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Recorded vote (5 Yeas/4 Nays)
 - Motion carried

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- How many former wards of the court and children in care are on income assistance - ones who aged out - or have had experience in the judicial system?
- The number of children in care has gone from 1,020 to 884. Provide a breakdown by age categories.
- Table for this committee those funding increases that have happened commensurate with new programming.
- How much the department has spent on places of safety for youth in care in the past year?
- How many youth in care in Nova Scotia are currently experiencing homelessness?
- Provide an update or tell us why the issue with the federal child family benefit being removed from a family when the children are removed is still not addressed.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220223.pdf

HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS

March 2, 2022

In Person and Video Conference

WITNESSES

Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care

Paul LaFleche – Deputy Minister

Stephan Richard – Executive Director, Housing Solutions and Development

Ed Lake - Executive Director, Housing Authorities

Neil MacDonald - Director, Housing Services

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Paul LaFleche – Deputy Minister

Kim Silver – Director, Home and Community

Faizal Nanji – Executive Director, Policy, Planning, Corporate Services

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

There was no committee business.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- How many seniors-focused units are a part of the \$38 million investment in affordable housing?
- How many units are being built in the \$500 to \$900 price range over the next 12 months that the government is contributing funding toward.
- Progress update that was published in January with respect to the Affordable Housing Commission Report.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220302.pdf

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS AND RETURN ON
INVESTMENT OF HOUSING PROVISION**

March 9, 2022

In Person and Video Conference

WITNESSES

Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia

Jim Graham – Executive Director

Department of Community Services

Tracey Taweel – Deputy Minister

Joy Knight – Director, ESIA

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Paul LaFleche – Deputy Minister

Stephan Richard – Executive Director, Housing Solutions and Development

Ed Lake – Executive Director, Housing Authorities

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Economic Development
 - Information requested from the February 9, 2022, meeting
- Department of Public Works
 - Information requested from the February 9, 2022, meeting

The requirement for Dr. Brendan Carr to attend as a witness at the March 23, 2022, meeting was discussed. A motion was put forward:

- To reschedule the meeting.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- To revert to our two original witnesses.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion carried

The committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the March 2, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

It was agreed that the Department of Public Works be a witness regarding the topic Gravel Road Program and Highway Improvement Plans.

The following motions were put forward:

- For the Population Growth Marketing Campaign, that the witnesses be the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, the Deputy Minister LSI, and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Yeas/4 Nays)
 - Motion carried

- The Nova Scotia Power proposed rate hikes. That would be a representative of NSUARB, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and representatives as listed from Efficiency Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Power.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

The following items were approved:

Department of Public Works	Gravel Road Program and Highway Improvement Plans
Representatives of the UARB Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Nova Scotia Power - Judith Ferguson, Executive Vice President, Regulatory, Legal, Planning and Government Relations; Mark Sidebottom, Chief Operating Officer; and David Landrigan, Vice President, Commercial Efficiency Nova Scotia – CEO	Nova Scotia Power’s Proposed Rate Hikes
Dept of Labour, Skills and Immigration Deputy Minister, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Population Growth Marketing Campaign

A request to extend the meeting by five minutes was made but was not agreed to.

DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation was tabled:

- Globe and mail article dated February 15, 2022: Here’s the income you need to afford rent in major Canadian cities
 - Tabled by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia:

- Shelter data usage information that is available for outside of the HRM

The following information was requested and has been received from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- What percentage of the current projects that are on the docket right now are private enterprises, meaning that there are private developers involved in the building of housing, and what percentage is public or community owned?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220309.pdf

**THE DECISION TO DISMANTLE THE HEALTH AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

March 23, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Health and Wellness
Jeannine Lagassé – Deputy Minister

Nova Scotia Health Authority
Karen Oldfield – President and CEO

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
 - Information requested from the February 9, 2022, meeting
- Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia
 - Information requested from the March 9, 2022, meeting

The committee continued its discussion of the Record of Decision from the March 2, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

The following motions were put forward:

- That the topics we present in accordance with our record of decision be three topics for the PC caucus, two topics for the Liberals, and one topic for the NDP caucus.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion rescinded
- Topic: Impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses. The witnesses would be the Deputy Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration; a representative from the Minimum Wage Review Committee; the Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia; and the Deputy Minister of Community Services.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried
- Topic: Funding to Community-based Health Organizations. The witnesses would be the President of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres; the Executive Director of the North End Community Health Centre; the Provincial Coordinator of Sexual Health Nova Scotia; and the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

- That the Deputy Minister of Community Services; the Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, project lead and author of Canada’s Food Price Report 2022; representatives from Feed Nova Scotia; representatives of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture; and representatives of Nourish Nova Scotia join us to present on rising food cost and food inflation in Nova Scotia.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Topic: Virtual Care Nova Scotia, and witnesses would be the president of Doctors Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia Health Authority Vice President of Research, Innovation and Discovery; and staff from the Department of Health and Wellness
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- Witnesses: President of Doctors Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia Health Authority, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery; CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority; Deputy Minister and Staff, Department of Health and Wellness.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Amendment defeated
 - Motion carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration – Deputy Minister Minimum Wage Review Committee – Representative Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives- Nova Scotia – Executive Director Department of Community Services – Deputy Minister	Impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses
Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres, President North End Community Health Centre, Executive Director Sexual Health NS, Provincial Coordinator Department of Health and Wellness, Deputy Minister	Funding to Community-Based Health Organizations
Deputy Minister of Community Services Deputy Minister of Agriculture Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, Project Lead and Author of Canada’s Food Price Report 2022 Representatives of Feed Nova Scotia	Rising Food Cost and Food Inflation in Nova Scotia

Representatives of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Representative of Nourish Nova Scotia	
President of Doctors Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Health, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery Department of Health and Wellness, Staff	Virtual Care Nova Scotia

DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation was tabled:

- News Release dated August 18, 2021 – Incoming Premier Tim Houston Names Transition Team
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Nova Scotia Health Authority - Finding a Primary Care Provider in Nova Scotia – February 2022
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Email between Kim Langille and Karen Oldfield
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Nova Scotia Health Response to FOIPOP request dated March 7, 2022
 - Tabled by Susan Leblanc, MLA

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Nova Scotia Health Authority:

- How many people in the province are waiting for a consultation with a specialist for surgeries?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220323.pdf

GRAVEL ROAD PROGRAM AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

March 30, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Public Works

Peter Hackett – Deputy Minister

Mark Peachey – Acting Chief Engineer

Don Maillet – Executive Director, Highway Engineering and Construction

Brent Pero – Executive Director of Finance

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

There was no committee business.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Can you clarify, the Active Transportation strategy that is specified in ECRA, is that happening in the Department of Public Works, or is that happening in the Department of Environment and Climate Change?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220330.pdf

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Mike MacPhee – Deputy Auditor General

Morgan McWade – Assistant Auditor General

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General met with the committee to provide a training session.

WITNESSES

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Justin Huston – Deputy Minister

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Ava Czapalay – Deputy Minister

Kimberly Jardine – Director, Attraction and Engagement, Immigration and Population Growth Branch

Jennifer L’Esperance – Senior Executive Director, Immigration and Population Growth Branch

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Community Services
 - Information requested from the February 23, 2022, meeting

The witnesses for the topic, Funding to Community-Based Health Organizations, were discussed. A motion was put forward:

- That for the meeting around funding to community-based health organizations, that we invite Marie-France LeBlanc as the Executive Director of the North End Community Health Centre and the Chair of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres, as well as Lorraine Burch to be witnesses.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

The witnesses for the topic, Rising Food Cost and Food Inflation in Nova Scotia, were discussed. A motion was put forward:

- To allow Dr. Charlebois to appear virtually for the Public Accounts Committee.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

The Committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the April 6, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures. A motion was put forward:

- To approve the Record of Decision of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of 2017, 2018 and 2019 Performance Recommendations
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of Recommendations made to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation
Department of Justice – Deputy Minister and Justice representatives	May 17, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Community Corrections
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Deputy Minister and Municipal Affairs and Housing representatives	June 21, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Housing

DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation was tabled:

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia Office – Putting Continuity in Continuing Care, January 2022
 - Tabled by Susan Leblanc, MLA

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage:

- Who is the Production Company and did they hire union actors to perform in the liveinnovascotia.com video?
- How much in the upcoming year the government will be spending on the Nova Scotia ferry?

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Labours, Skills and Immigration:

- For the months of January and February, can you tell us how many nurses, long-term care workers, CCAs, and doctors were attracted to this province over that time?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220413.pdf

WITNESSES

Department of Health and Wellness

Craig Beaton – Associate Deputy Minister

Angela Purcell – Senior Executive Director, Physician Services

Jill Casey – Executive Director, Data Governance and Management

Doctors Nova Scotia

Dr. Heather Johnson – President

Dr. Leisha Hawker – President-Elect and Chair, Doctors Nova Scotia e-Health Committee

Nova Scotia Health Authority

Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy – Vice President, Research, Innovation and Discovery, and Chief Nurse Executive

Doris Grant – Senior Director, Innovation

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Paul Allen, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
- Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
- Lora MacEachern, Deputy Minister, Department of Environment and Climate Change
- Judith Ferguson, Executive Vice President, Regulatory, Legal and Business Planning, Nova Scotia Power
 - Responses to request to appear regarding the topic: Nova Scotia Power’s Proposed Rate Hikes
- Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - Information requested from the March 9, 2022, meeting

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220420.pdf

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – FOLLOW-UP OF 2017, 2018
AND 2019 PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2022 ATLANTIC PROVINCES' JOINT FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE ATLANTIC LOTTERY CORPORATION**

April 27, 2022

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Mike MacPhee – Deputy Auditor General

Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General

Adam Harding – Sr. Audit Principal

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided the committee with a briefing regarding the Follow-up of 2017, 2018 and 2019 Performance Audit Recommendations and the Follow-up of Recommendations to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation audits.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was unanimously agreed to conduct committee business at the in camera meeting and to make the decisions public.

A motion was put forward:

- That we aim for the June 15th meeting to be scheduled to invite the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, and the Department of Public Works to talk about the 2017 Report on Mental Health Services; the 2017 Report on Managing Home Care Support; the 2017 Report on Managing Home Care Support Contracts; and the 2019 Report on the QEII New Generation Project and the Community Outpatient Centre.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we accept the Auditor General's suggestions for the ALC Follow-up Report: Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation CEO, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, as well as the ALC CEO.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

It was agreed that each caucus would review the Follow up Report and that suggested witnesses would be brought forward at the next meeting for further discussion.

It was also agreed that holding summer meetings would be taken back to caucus for discussion and be brought forward at the next meeting.

WITNESSES

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Lora MacEachern – Deputy Minister

Nancy Rondeaux – Executive Director, Climate Change Division

Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

Karen Gatien – Deputy Minister

David Miller – Director, Clean Electricity

Efficiency Nova Scotia

Stephen MacDonald – President and CEO

Sarah Chaisson – Director, Service Delivery

Nova Scotia Power Inc.

Judith Ferguson – Executive Vice President, Regulatory, Legal and Business Planning (attending as Counsel for NS Power)

Mark Sidebottom – Chief Operating Officer

David Landrigan – Vice President, Commercial

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

Paul Allen – Executive Director

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the questioning period part of the Public Accounts Committee meeting for another hour.

- Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- Recorded Vote (5 Nays/3 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That these same witnesses return the moment the presentations are given to the NSUARB, and that they return for the next actual meeting of the Public Accounts Committee.

- Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- Recorded Vote (5 Nays/3 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Public Works
 - Information requested from the March 30, 2022, meeting
- Nova Scotia Health Authority
 - Information requested from the March 23, 2022, meeting

The witnesses for the June 29, 2022, meeting regarding Housing were discussed. It was agreed that the Associate Deputy Minister could attend should Deputy Minister Paul LaFleche be unable to attend.

The selection of additional witnesses in relation to the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Follow-up Report were discussed. Motions were put forward:

- That we schedule another meeting to discuss the 2017 Climate Change Management Report and call the Deputy Minister of the Department of Environment and Climate Change around the recommendation.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried
- That we schedule a second meeting on the 2018 Report on Grant Programs, and that we call the deputies or their designates from the Departments of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, Finance and Treasury Board, Natural Resources and Renewables and Agriculture.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we extend the meeting to deal with the business of the committee.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not brought to a vote.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from Nova Scotia Power Inc.:

- How many customers in Nova Scotia are in arrears right now?
- How many people currently have payment agreements?
- How many households are currently at risk of disconnection?
- Are there any trends around arrears and disconnections?
- Who is on the Low Income Advisory Committee, how often does it meet and what data is looked at in those conversations? Can you share with us any recommendations that have come from that committee around lowering bills, managing arrears, any of those things

we've been discussing?

- A family or customer can avoid disconnection if it will negatively impact their health. Can you explain how this works? Is a doctor's note required? If so, how do they do that if they don't have access to a family physician?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220504.pdf

FUNDING TO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

May 11, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Health and Wellness

Jeannine Lagassé – Deputy Minister

Tanya Penney – Senior Executive Director, Clinical

North End Community Health Centre

Marie-France LeBlanc – Executive Director

Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres

Marie-France LeBlanc – President

Our Health Centre

Lorraine Burch – Executive Director

Sexual Health Nova Scotia

Leigh Heide – Provincial Coordinator

Abbey Ferguson – Executive Director, Halifax Sexual Health Centre

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Follow-up Report of Recommendations made to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation was discussed. A motion was put forward:

- That we do actually have the meeting with the witnesses.
 - Moved by John A MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A clarification was sought regarding the witnesses for the topic relating to Grant Programs. A motion was put forward:

- To remove Agriculture from that list of witnesses.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender
 - Motion carried

Holding additional meetings or holding meetings during the summer was discussed. It was agreed that the committee will not meet during the summer, as it had previously agreed.

Members were provided with the dates for the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference, which will be held in Ottawa, Ontario from August 28-30, 2022.

A motion was put forward:

- That at the first meeting in September, Nova Scotia Power appear.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Nays/ 4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- How many confirmed cases of Covid-19 are there in Nova Scotia right now?
- What is the percentage of staff increase you will need to commit to actually achieve 24/7, 365 day (surgeries), and what is a time frame - a roundabout time frame - that Nova Scotians can expect to see 24/7, 365?

The following documentation was requested from the North End Community Health Centre:

- Can you share any data or analysis on the success of the Managed Alcohol Program, MAP, at the North End Community Health Clinic? Does the province intend to continue to fund that temporary program and is the province exploring the idea of expanding MAP to other parts of the province?

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220511.pdf

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT
OF INDIVIDUALS SERVING COMMUNITY-BASED SENTENCES: DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE**

May 18, 2022

In Person and Video Conference

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Mike MacPhee – Deputy Auditor General

Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General

Robert Jewer – Audit Principal

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided the committee with a briefing in relation to the Oversight and Management of Individuals serving Community-Based Sentences audit.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The committee agreed unanimously to deal with committee business during the in camera meeting and it was agreed to make the decisions public.

A motion was put forward:

- That we add one hour to the June 22nd meeting to deal with the training session follow-up.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT
OF INDIVIDUALS SERVING COMMUNITY-BASED SENTENCES: DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE**

May 25, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Justice

Candace Thomas – Deputy Minister

Chris Collett – Executive Director, Correctional Services

Michael McAloney – Director, Correctional Services

Erik Nielson – Manager, Policy and Programs

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
 - Information requested from the April 13, 2022, meeting

It was agreed to write back to the Department as the first part of the question was not answered.

The committee has adopted a practice of endorsing Auditor General Recommendations.

Motions were put forward:

- I move that the Public Accounts Committee formally accept and endorse recommendations contained in the 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Oversight and Management of Individuals Serving Community-Based Sentences: Department of Justice that have been accepted by the audited departments or agencies, and ask that those departments and agencies commit to and take responsibility for full and timely implementation of the recommendations accepted by those departments and agencies.
 - Moved by Dave Ritcey, MLA
 - Motion carried
- To endorse the recommendations in the 2021 Report of the Auditor General – Value for Money of Early COVID-19 Relief Programs for Individuals and Small Business: Education and Early Childhood Development; Finance and Treasury Board and in the 2021 Report of the Auditor General – Internet for Nova Scotia.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the Public Accounts Committee meeting for another half hour to deal with these motions and other motions that will be coming forward.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- To bring in the Department of Finance and Treasury Board and someone from the Premier's staff to discuss the newfound (gas) revenue windfall at the next Public Accounts meeting.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (5 Nays/4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee request the Office of the Auditor General to include recommendations from the May 2018 Report on Correctional Facilities in their follow-up report on the 2022 Report on Community Corrections.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Nova Scotia Power come back to the Public Accounts Committee the second week of October to discuss power outages and power bills.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested:

- What is the percentage of African Nova Scotians and Indigenous individuals incarcerated now in provincial jails compared to the general population?
- How many African Nova Scotian and Indigenous provincial judges do we have and how many judges do we have in total?
- How many staff are working at the correctional facility today?
- How many correctional officers are off on short and long-term disability and the percentage of the workforce?
- How many individuals are on electronic monitoring in Cape Breton?

- Has there been an analysis done on how money could be reallocated and what that would mean for the justice system and what that would mean for the recidivism rate?

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

<https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2022CorrectionsFullReport.pdf>

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220525.pdf

In Person and Video Conference

WITNESSES

Department of Agriculture

Loretta Robichaud – Deputy Minister

Heather Hughes – Executive Director, Policy & Corporate Services

Department of Community Services

Tracey Taweel – Deputy Minister

Joy Knight – Executive Director, Employment Support and Income Assistance

Dalhousie University

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois – Professor of Food Distribution and Policy and Senior Director, Agri-Food Analytics Lab

Janet Music – Research Program Coordinator, Agri-Food Analytics Lab

Feed Nova Scotia

Nick Jennery – Executive Director

Sylvia Parris-Drummond – Chair, Board of Directors

Dr. Mohammed Al-Hamdani – Director of Community Connections

Nourish Nova Scotia

Margo Riebe-Butt – Executive Director

Joy King – Principal, Uniacke District School

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel – Executive Director

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- That we bring Nova Scotia Power at the next available session before we wrap for the summer to make that information (executive bonuses) public.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5-Nays/4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That we call upon the Department of Finance and Treasury Board and staff from the Premier's Office to appear next week before the Public Accounts Committee to discuss their promise for a better paycheque and what they're doing with their newfound gas

tax windfall that's helping low-income, middle-class, and working-class Nova Scotians.

- Moved by Hon. Brenda Maguire, MLA
- Recorded Vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

Correspondence was received from:

- Nova Scotia Power
 - Information requested from the May 4, 2022, meeting
- Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
 - Information requested from the April 13, 2022, meeting

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled or requested.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220601.pdf

**IMPACT OF A LOW WAGE ECONOMY ON GOVERNMENT REVENUE
AND EXPENSES**

June 8, 2022

WITNESSES

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives- Nova Scotia Office

Christine Saulnier – Director

Department of Community Services

Tracey Taweel – Deputy Minister

Joy Knight – Executive Director, Employment Support and Income Assistance

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Ava Czapalay – Deputy Minister

Cynthia Yazbek – Executive Director, Labour Services

Minimum Wage Review Committee

Danny Cavanagh – Employee Representative

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Correspondence was received from:

- Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
 - Information requested from the April 12, 2022, meeting
- Office of the Auditor General
 - Response to committee correspondence dated May 31, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That the Public Accounts Committee request the Department of Finance and Treasury Board appear before the committee to respond to questions related to the impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (4 Yeas/5 Nays)
 - Motion defeated

A request to extend the meeting time was made but was not agreed to.

A motion was put forward:

- To call Nova Scotia Power the 3rd week of October regarding power rates, infrastructure costs and bonuses.
 - Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not able to be brought to a vote.

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested and has been received from the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration:

- A list of the research that was done by the [Minimum Wage Review] Committee.

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220608.pdf

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL: FOLLOW-UP OF 2017, 2018
AND 2019 PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS, REGARDING:
NOVEMBER 1, 2017 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL: CHAPTER 3,
CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

June 15, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Lora MacEachern – Deputy Minister

Jason Hollett – Associate Deputy Minister

Nancy Rondeaux – Executive Director, Climate Change Division

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- To move the June 29th meeting to July 6th so that members can attend graduations.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

Motion that was left on the floor at the June 8, 2022, meeting:

- To call Nova Scotia Power the 3rd week of October regarding power rates, infrastructure costs and bonuses.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- A friendly amendment was made to add the Affordable Energy Coalition as a witness as well, which was agreed to.

John A. MacDonald, MLA, raised a Point of Order that the motion was out of order as it had already been brought before the committee and voted down.

The Chair ruled that the motion was in order.

- Recorded Vote (5 Nays/4 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested:

- Federal government benchmark.
- Can you confirm if the minister has participated with federal counterparts on pre-Confederation water lots?

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTS

<https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2022FollowupFullReport.pdf>

https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/FullNov2017_1.pdf

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220615.pdf

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT
OF GOVERNMENT OWNED PUBLIC HOUSING: DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING**

FOLLOW-UP TO APRIL 6, 2022, TRAINING SESSION

June 22, 2022

In Camera

WITNESSES

Office of the Auditor General

Kim Adair – Auditor General

Mike MacPhee – Deputy Auditor General

Michelle Myatt – Audit Manager

Chris MacNeil – Audit Manager

Officials from the Office of the Auditor General provided a briefing to the committee regarding the Oversight and Management of Government Owned Public Housing audit, and also followed up with members further to the April 6, 2022, Training Session.

**2022 REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL – OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT
OF GOVERNMENT OWNED PUBLIC HOUSING: DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING**

June 29, 2022

WITNESSES

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Paul LaFleche – Deputy Minister

Stephen MacIsaac – Chief Executive Officer, Nova Scotia Housing Authorities

Vicki Elliott-Lopez – Senior Executive Director of Housing

Mark Peck – Associate Deputy Minister

Jamie Vigliarolo – Director, Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority

Cara Spittal – Manager, Policy and Strategy, Nova Scotia Housing Authorities

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee clarify that the member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier is able to participate in today's meeting of the Public Accounts Committee for the purposes of voting and quorum.
 - Moved by Hon. Derek Mombourquette, MLA
 - Motion carried

Correspondence was received from:

- Department of Health and Wellness
 - Information requested from the May 11, 2022, meeting
- Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
 - Information requested from the June 8, 2022, meeting

DOCUMENTATION

No documentation was tabled.

The following documentation was requested:

- The breakdown of the wait times in each housing authority.
- There's a draft policy update for priority access criteria that has been awaiting ministerial approval since 2018. Why are we still waiting for this ministerial approval?

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT

<https://oag-ns.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2022HousingFullReportWeb.pdf>

TRANSCRIPT

https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/committees/pa/pa_20220629.pdf

**SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
AGENDA AND
PROCEDURES

MEETINGS**

November 17, 2021

In Camera

IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA – Chair
 Nolan Young, MLA – Vice Chair
 Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 Susan Leblanc, MLA
 Kim Adair – Auditor General
 Morgan McWade – Assistant Auditor General
 Gordon Hebb – Chief Legislative Counsel

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The subcommittee agreed to propose the following to the full committee:

Topics:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Tracey Taweel - Deputy Minister, Community Services and Status of Women	Child Protection Services Caseloads
Scott Farmer - Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Environment and Climate Change	NS Cap and Trade Program
Paul LaFleche, Departments of Seniors and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing	Housing Repair Programs for Low Income Seniors
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness CEO of Nova Scotia Health Authority	The decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board
Departmental Representatives from Economic Development, Public Works, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Review of Crown Corporations, including their creation and dismantling (Focus on Tourism and Housing)
Department of Housing, Department of Community Services, AHANS	Economic impact of homelessness and return on investment of housing provision
EHS, NSH, Department of Health and Wellness, IOUE 727	EHS contract and service delivery
Office of the Auditor General	Auditor General Report - Planning and Implementation of the Pre-Primary Program Auditor General Report - Follow-up of 2016, 2017 and 2018 Performance Audit Recommendations IN CAMERA

	(Note: Reports Released July 7, 2021, and not able to be dealt with)
Department of Finance and Treasury Board, Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services and Department of Natural Resources and Renewables	Report of the Auditor General – 2021 Financial Report

Other Items:

Procedure for Selection of Witnesses re: Auditor General Reports

- Witnesses as recommended by the Auditor General in relation to upcoming reports will be accepted and put forward to the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

Action Plans on Auditor General Recommendations

- To continue the practice of requesting Action Plans from departments that have received recommendations from the Auditor General when a report is released. Template attached. (Action Plans are to be returned within 4 weeks and an updated Action Plan is requested one year later. The Action Plan provides an update on a department’s implementation status of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.)
 - The Subcommittee will revisit the practice at a future meeting.

March 2, 2022

In Camera

IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA – Chair
 Nolan Young, MLA – Vice Chair
 Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 Susan Leblanc, MLA
 Andrew Atherton – Assistant Auditor General
 Gordon Hebb – Chief Legislative Counsel

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The subcommittee agreed to propose the following to the full committee:

Topics:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration – Deputy Minister Minimum Wage Review Committee – Representative Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives- Nova Scotia – Executive Director Department of Community Services – Deputy Minister	Impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses
Department of Public Works	Gravel Road Program and Highway Improvement Plans
Representatives of the UARB Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Nova Scotia Power - Judith Ferguson, Executive Vice President, Regulatory, Legal, Planning and Government Relations; Mark Sidebottom, Chief Operating Officer; and David Landrigan, Vice President, Commercial Efficiency Nova Scotia – CEO	Nova Scotia Powers Proposed Rate Hikes
Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres, President North End Community Health Centre, Executive Director	Funding to Community-Based Health Organizations

<p>Sexual Health NS, Provincial Coordinator Department of Health and Wellness, Deputy Minister</p>	
<p>Dept of Labour, Skills and Immigration Deputy Minister, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Representative Communications Nova Scotia Housing Nova Scotia</p>	<p>Population Growth Marketing Campaign</p>
<p>Deputy Minister of Community Services Deputy Minister of Agriculture Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, Project Lead and Author of Canada’s Food Price Report 2022 Representatives of Feed Nova Scotia Representatives of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Representative of Nourish Nova Scotia</p>	<p>Rising Food Cost and Food Inflation in Nova Scotia</p>
<p>President of Doctors Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Health, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery Department of Health and Wellness, Deputy Minister Nova Scotia Health Authority, CEO</p>	<p>Virtual Care Nova Scotia</p>

April 6, 2022

In Camera

IN ATTENDANCE

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA – Chair
 Nolan Young, MLA – Vice Chair
 Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 Susan Leblanc, MLA
 Kim Adair – Auditor General
 Mike MacPhee – Deputy Auditor General
 Morgan McWade – Assistant Auditor General
 Gordon Hebb – Chief Legislative Counsel

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The subcommittee agreed to propose the following to the full committee:

Topics:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of 2017, 2018 and 2019 Performance Recommendations
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of Recommendations made to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation
Department of Justice – Deputy Minister and Justice representatives	May 17, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Community Corrections
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Deputy Minister and Municipal Affairs and Housing representatives	June 21, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Housing

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - DOCUMENTATION

TABLED DOCUMENTS:

December 15, 2021

The following documentation was tabled:

- Cyber security requires a multi-layered approach
 - Tabled by Karen Gatien, Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

March 9, 2022

The following documentation was tabled:

- Globe and mail article dated February 15, 2022: Here's the income you need to afford rent in major Canadian cities
 - Tabled by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

March 23, 2022

The following documentation was tabled:

- News Release dated August 18, 2021 – Incoming Premier Tim Houston Names Transition Team
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Nova Scotia Health Authority - Finding a Primary Care Provider in Nova Scotia – February 2022
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Email between Kim Langille and Karen Oldfield
 - Tabled by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
- Nova Scotia Health Response to FOIPOP request dated March 7, 2022
 - Tabled by Susan Leblanc, MLA

April 13, 2022

The following documentation was tabled:

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Nova Scotia Office – Putting Continuity in Continuing Care, January 2022
 - Tabled by Susan Leblanc, MLA

REQUESTED DOCUMENTS:

December 15, 2021

Department of Finance and Treasury Board

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Provide an update on the work of the Economic Growth Council.

- When can we expect the release of the second report of the Economic Growth Council, and does this council still exist and advising this government?

February 9, 2022

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Provide the information around when you met with Sydney and Halifax International Airport folks.
- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

Department of Economic Development

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

Department of Public Works

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Provide the committee and the Auditor General with the progress made on all of the items in your mandate letters for the 90-day timeline.

February 23, 2022

Department of Community Services

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- How many former wards of the court and children in care are on income assistance - ones who aged out - or have had experience in the judicial system?
- The number of children in care has gone from 1,020 to 884. Provide a breakdown by age categories.
- Table for this committee those funding increases that have happened commensurate with new programming.
- How much the department has spent on places of safety for youth in care in the past year?
- How many youth in care in Nova Scotia are currently experiencing homelessness?
- Provide an update or tell us why the issue with the federal child family benefit being removed from a family when the children are removed is still not addressed.

March 2, 2022

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The following documentation was requested:

- How many seniors-focused units are a part of the \$38 million investment in affordable housing?
- How many units are being built in the \$500 to \$900 price range over the next 12 months that the government is contributing funding toward.
- Progress update that was published in January with respect to the Affordable Housing Commission Report.

March 9, 2022

Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Shelter data usage information that is available for outside of the HRM

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The following information was requested and has been received:

- What percentage of the current projects that are on the docket right now are private enterprises, meaning that there are private developers involved in the building of housing, and what percentage is public or community owned?

March 23, 2022

Nova Scotia Health Authority

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- How many people in the province are waiting for a consultation with a specialist for surgeries?

March 30, 2022

Department of Public Works

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Can you clarify, the Active Transportation strategy that is specified in ECRA, is that happening in the Department of Public Works, or is that happening in the Department of Environment and Climate Change?

April 13, 2022

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- Who is the Production Company and did they hire union actors to perform in the liveinnovascotia.com video?
- How much in the upcoming year the government will be spending on the Nova Scotia ferry?

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- For the months of January and February, can you tell us how many nurses, long-term care workers, CCAs, and doctors were attracted to this province over that time?

May 4, 2022

Nova Scotia Power Inc.

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- How many customers in Nova Scotia are in arrears right now?
- How many people currently have payment agreements?
- How many households are currently at risk of disconnection?
- Are there any trends around arrears and disconnections?
- Who is on the Low Income Advisory Committee, how often does it meet and what data is looked at in those conversations? Can you share with us any recommendations that have come from that committee around lowering bills, managing arrears, any of those things we've been discussing?
- A family or customer can avoid disconnection if it will negatively impact their health. Can you explain how this works? Is a doctor's note required? If so, how do they do that if they don't have access to a family physician?

May 11, 2022

Department of Health and Wellness

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- How many confirmed cases of Covid-19 are there in Nova Scotia right now?
- What is the percentage of staff increase you will need to commit to actually achieve 24/7, 365 day (surgeries), and what is a time frame - a roundabout time frame - that Nova Scotians can expect to see 24/7, 365?

North End Community Health Centre

The following documentation was requested:

- Can you share any data or analysis on the success of the Managed Alcohol Program, MAP, at the North End Community Health Clinic? Does the province intend to continue to fund that temporary program and is the province exploring the idea of expanding MAP to other parts of the province?

May 25, 2022

Department of Justice

The following documentation was requested:

- What is the percentage of African Nova Scotians and Indigenous individuals incarcerated now in provincial jails compared to the general population?
- How many African Nova Scotian and Indigenous provincial judges do we have and how many judges do we have in total?
- How many staff are working at the correctional facility today?
- How many correctional officers are off on short and long-term disability and the percentage of the workforce?
- How many individuals are on electronic monitoring in Cape Breton?
- Has there been an analysis done on how money could be reallocated and what that would mean for the justice system and what that would mean for the recidivism rate?

June 8, 2022

Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

The following documentation was requested and has been received:

- A list of the research that was done by the [Minimum Wage Review] Committee.

June 15, 2022

Department of Environment and Climate Change

The following documentation was requested:

- Federal government benchmark.
- Can you confirm if the minister has participated with federal counterparts on pre-Confederation water lots?

June 29, 2022

Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The following documentation was requested:

- The breakdown of the wait times in each housing authority.
- There's a draft policy update for priority access criteria that has been awaiting ministerial approval since 2018. Why are we still waiting for this ministerial approval?

APPENDIX B - MOTIONS

November 10, 2021

A motion was put forward:

- That the subcommittee continue to be made up of the Chair, the Vice Chair, a member of the Official Opposition and a member of the Third Party.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- The committee meet weekly except as determined by the committee; that the committee review the Public Accounts, the annual report, and other reports of the Auditor General, and any other financial matters respecting the public funds of the Province as provided by subparagraph (2)(a) of Rule 60 of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly; and for greater certainty, the resolutions of September 26, 2018, and February 6, 2019, respecting the agenda and meeting of the committee are rescinded.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the Public Accounts Committee meet for two-hour in camera sessions following any Auditor General Report with the understanding that the following week we would then meet for a regular, public meeting of the Public Accounts Committee session where we would talk to department witnesses relating to the previous Auditor General's Report.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

Correspondence was received from:

- Nova Scotia Government and Employees Union
 - Request to have item added to the committee's agenda

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee review the Ombudsman report and consider the operational and departmental oversight failures at Island Employment, as well as consider broadly government oversight of third-party use of public funds, at the next possible Public Accounts Committee meeting that has no agenda attached to it.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

November 17, 2021

It was agreed to make public the decisions made at the in camera meeting regarding witnesses for the December 1st meeting.

A motion was put forward:

- That we call the witnesses as emailed out just now for the December 1st meeting regarding COVID spending.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we invite Finance and Treasury Board, Economic Development, Develop Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust to be here.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we invite i-Valley, the president and vice president, to be present at the December 1st meeting to consider the Auditor General's Report on internet.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

December 1, 2021

The committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the November 17, 2021, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

The following motions were put forward:

- That for the first topic, which is child protection service caseloads, to add Alex Stratford, the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers, as a witness.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated
- I move the adoption of the record of decision on November 17th as distributed.
 - Moved by Dave Ritcey, MLA
 - Motion carried
- To recall Jennifer Angel, Margaret MacDonald, Terry Dalton and Barry Gander to talk about the Internet project.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc

An amendment was put forward:

- To add them to the next round after the current list.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Tracey Taweel - Deputy Minister, Community Services and Status of Women	Child Protection Services Caseloads
Scott Farmer - Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Environment and Climate Change	NS Cap and Trade Program
Paul LaFleche, Departments of Seniors and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing	Housing Repair Programs for Low Income Seniors
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness CEO of Nova Scotia Health Authority	The decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board
Departmental Representatives from Economic Development, Public Works, Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Review of Crown Corporations, including their creation and dismantling (Focus on Tourism and Housing)
Department of Housing, Department of Community Services, AHANS	Economic impact of homelessness and return on investment of housing provision
EHS, NSH, Department of Health and Wellness, IOUE 727	EHS contract and service delivery
Office of the Auditor General	Auditor General Report - Planning and Implementation of the Pre-Primary Program Auditor General Report - Follow-up of 2016, 2017 and 2018 Performance Audit Recommendations IN CAMERA (Note: Reports Released July 7, 2021, and not able to be dealt with)
Department of Finance and Treasury Board, Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services and Department of Natural Resources and Renewables	Report of the Auditor General – 2021 Financial Report

Other Items:

Procedure for Selection of Witnesses re: Auditor General Reports

- Witnesses, as recommended by the Auditor General in relation to upcoming reports, will be accepted and put forward to the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

Action Plans on Auditor General Recommendations

- To continue the practice of requesting Action Plans from departments that have received recommendations from the Auditor General when a report is released. Template attached. (Action Plans are to be returned within 4 weeks and an updated Action Plan is requested one year later. The Action Plan provides an update on a department's implementation status of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.)
- The Subcommittee will revisit the practice at a future meeting.

December 15, 2021

A change had occurred in the Deputy Minister responsible for the Department of Environment and Climate Change, who had been previously approved to appear. A motion was put forward:

- To have the current deputy appear.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

January 19, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That the Standing Committee on Public Accounts move to a virtual format until Public Health recommends otherwise.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

Correspondence was received from:

- Emails from Karen Oldfield and Jeannine Lagassé
 - Regarding request to appear with respect to the Decision to Dismantle the Health Authority Board

A motion was put forward:

- To keep the two witnesses that we had previously reached out to and to add two witnesses: the Premier's Chief of Staff, Nicole LaFosse Parker; and the chair of his transition team, Scott McCrae.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the government caucus come back with names that they deem to be appropriate for the discussion of this particular issue.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee continues to require and request Jeannine Lagassé and Karen Oldfield to appear before the Public Accounts Committee on that topic – the decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion rescinded

A motion was put forward:

- That this item be deferred for one week.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the meeting by 30 minutes.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee write to the Auditor General in support of the request from the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union that the Office of the Auditor General undertake an audit of operations at Island Employment.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

January 26, 2022

Correspondence was received from:

- Nolan Young
 - Correspondence to the Chair dated January 29, 2022, and the Chair's response

A motion was put forward:

- I move that the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, in light of the requests from the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, write to the Office of the Auditor General to initiate an audit of operations at Island Employment.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- To add that includes a forensic aspect to the audit.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried

- Emails from Karen Oldfield and Jeannine Lagassé
 - Regarding Request to appear with respect to the Decision to Dismantle the Health Authority Board

A motion was put forward:

- To add as witnesses the Chief of Staff and Head of the Transition Team or a member of the Transition team regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- For the PC Party to come back next week with 2 names besides those who have already been chosen regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brenda Maguire,
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the decisions made here today be made public and part of the public record.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

February 2, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report Briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- When we have Auditor General briefings in camera, the agenda shall have no committee business without the unanimous support of the committee.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

A motion was put forward:

- That this item be deferred to the next meeting, which I believe is February 9th.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To add Premier Houston to the list of witnesses, speaking on the decision to dismantle the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (7 Yeas/2 Nays)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the former CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority, Dr. Brendan Carr, be added to the witness list regarding the dismantling of the Health Authority Board.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (7 Yeas/2 Nays)
 - Motion carried

February 9, 2022

Motion and Amendment deferred from February 2, 2022, meeting:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report Briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

Amendment:

- When we have Auditor General briefings in camera, the agenda shall have no committee business without the unanimous support of the committee.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

A motion was put forward:

- I am withdrawing the motion.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried unanimously

A motion was put forward:

- I am withdrawing my amendment.
 - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried unanimously

A motion was put forward:

- That all committee business be conducted at public meetings with the exception of the Auditor General Report briefings, Sub-Committee business and committee training. In the event there is a need to make a decision in a timely way, the committee could conduct business in camera, with the unanimous support of the entire committee.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (7 Yeas/2 Nays)
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the member for Halifax Atlantic please table any documents that indicate “the completion of all [government priorities] will happen in 90 days” as he referenced earlier.

- Moved by Nolan Young, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not brought to a vote.

February 16, 2022

Correspondence was received from:

- Nolan Young
 - Correspondence to the Chair dated February 10, 2022, and the Chair’s Response

A motion was put forward:

- That we begin meeting in person as a Public Accounts Committee going forward.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- That if we do know that witnesses are coming forward and how many there are going to be, that we vote previously, maybe the week before via email to ensure that if we need to go virtual, we can so that it doesn’t take up committee time.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
 - Amendment defeated
 - Recorded Vote (Unanimous)
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we extend the committee for 10 minutes.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

February 23, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That the PAC Committee continue in-person meetings and when necessary to accommodate Public Health protocols, have witnesses appear virtually.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Motion carried

Motion deferred from January 12, 2022:

- That the subcommittee meet to draft a statement of purpose and values and to draft a

motion around the Public Accounts Committee affirming a willingness to work collaboratively.

- Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- That this be the first topic in a PAC training session facilitated by the Auditor General: that the PAC meet to draft a statement of purpose and values and to draft a motion around the PAC affirming a willingness to work collaboratively.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Amendment carried
 - Motion as amended carried

Motion deferred from February 9, 2022:

- That the member for Halifax Atlantic please table any documents that indicate “the completion of all [government priorities] will happen in 90 days” as he referenced earlier.
 - Moved by Nolan Young, MLA
 - Recorded vote (5 Yeas/4 Nays)
 - Motion carried

March 9, 2022

The requirement for Dr. Brendan Carr to attend as a witness at the March 23, 2022, meeting was discussed. A motion was put forward:

- To reschedule the meeting.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- To revert to our two original witnesses.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion carried

The committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the March 2, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

The following motions were put forward:

- For the Population Growth Marketing Campaign, that the witnesses be the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration, the Deputy Minister LSI, and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Yeas/4 Nays)
 - Motion carried

- The Nova Scotia Power proposed rate hikes. That would be a representative of NSUARB, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and representatives as listed from Efficiency Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Power.

- Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- Motion carried

The following items were approved:

Department of Public Works	Gravel Road Program and Highway Improvement Plans
Representatives of the UARB Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Nova Scotia Power - Judith Ferguson, Executive Vice President, Regulatory, Legal, Planning and Government Relations; Mark Sidebottom, Chief Operating Officer; and David Landrigan, Vice President, Commercial Efficiency Nova Scotia – CEO	Nova Scotia Power’s Proposed Rate Hikes
Dept of Labour, Skills and Immigration Deputy Minister, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	Population Growth Marketing Campaign

March 23, 2022

The committee continued its discussion of the Record of Decision from the March 2, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.

The following motions were put forward:

- That the topics we present in accordance with our record of decision be three topics for the PC caucus, two topics for the Liberals, and one topic for the NDP caucus.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion rescinded
- Topic: Impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses. The witnesses would be the Deputy Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration; a representative from the Minimum Wage Review Committee; the Executive Director of

the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Nova Scotia; and the Deputy Minister of Community Services.

- Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
- Motion carried

- Topic: Funding to Community-based Health Organizations. The witnesses would be the President of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres; the Executive Director of the North End Community Health Centre; the Provincial Coordinator of Sexual Health Nova Scotia; and the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

- That the Deputy Minister of Community Services; the Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, project lead and author of Canada’s Food Price Report 2022; representatives from Feed Nova Scotia; representatives of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture; and representatives of Nourish Nova Scotia join us to present on rising food cost and food inflation in Nova Scotia.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Motion carried

- Topic: Virtual Care Nova Scotia, and witnesses would be the president of Doctors Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia Health Authority Vice President of Research, Innovation and Discovery; and staff from the Department of Health and Wellness
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA

An amendment was put forward:

- Witnesses: President of Doctors Nova Scotia; Nova Scotia Health Authority, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery; CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority; Deputy Minister and Staff, Department of Health and Wellness.
 - Moved by Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA
 - Amendment defeated
 - Motion carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration – Deputy Minister Minimum Wage Review Committee – Representative Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives- Nova Scotia – Executive Director	Impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses

Department of Community Services – Deputy Minister	
Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres, President North End Community Health Centre, Executive Director Sexual Health NS, Provincial Coordinator Department of Health and Wellness, Deputy Minister	Funding to Community-Based Health Organizations
Deputy Minister of Community Services Deputy Minister of Agriculture Dr. Sylvain Charlebois, Project Lead and Author of Canada’s Food Price Report 2022 Representatives of Feed Nova Scotia Representatives of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Representative of Nourish Nova Scotia	Rising Food Cost and Food Inflation in Nova Scotia
President of Doctors Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Health, VP Research, Innovation and Discovery Department of Health and Wellness, Staff	Virtual Care Nova Scotia

April 13, 2022

The witnesses for the topic, Funding to Community-Based Health Organizations, were discussed. A motion was put forward:

- That for the meeting around funding to community-based health organizations, that we invite Marie-France LeBlanc as the Executive Director of the North End Community Health Centre and the Chair of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Health Centres, as well as Lorraine Burch to be witnesses.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

The witnesses for the topic, Rising Food Cost and Food Inflation in Nova Scotia, were discussed. A motion was put forward:

- To allow Dr. Charlebois to appear virtually for the Public Accounts Committee.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

The Committee was presented with the Record of Decision from the April 6, 2022, meeting of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures. A motion was put forward:

- To approve the Record of Decision of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedures.
 - Moved by Trevor Boudreau, MLA
 - Motion carried

The following items were approved:

WITNESS	TOPIC
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of 2017, 2018 and 2019 Performance Recommendations
Witnesses to be determined on April 27, 2022, when the committee meets with the Auditor General to discuss the Report	April 26, 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Follow-up of Recommendations made to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation
Department of Justice – Deputy Minister and Justice representatives	May 17, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Community Corrections
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Deputy Minister and Municipal Affairs and Housing representatives	June 21, 2022 Report of the Auditor General Re: Housing

April 27, 2022

It was unanimously agreed to conduct committee business at the in camera meeting and to make the decisions public.

A motion was put forward:

- That we aim for the June 15th meeting to be scheduled to invite the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, and the Department of Public Works to talk about the 2017 Report on Mental Health Services; the 2017 Report on Managing Home Care Support; the 2017 Report on Managing Home Care Support Contracts; and the 2019 Report on the QEII New Generation Project and the Community Outpatient Centre.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we accept the Auditor General’s suggestions for the ALC Follow-up Report: Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation CEO, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, as well as the ALC CEO.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

May 4, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the questioning period part of the Public Accounts Committee meeting for another hour.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Nays/3 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That these same witnesses return the moment the presentations are given to the NSUARB, and that they return for the next actual meeting of the Public Accounts Committee.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Nays/3 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

The selection of additional witnesses in relation to the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Follow-up Report were discussed. Motions were put forward:

- That we schedule another meeting to discuss the 2017 Climate Change Management Report and call the Deputy Minister of the Department of Environment and Climate Change around the recommendation.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

- That we schedule a second meeting on the 2018 Report on Grant Programs, and that we call the deputies or their designates from the Departments of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, Finance and Treasury Board, Natural Resources and Renewables and Agriculture.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That we extend the meeting to deal with the business of the committee.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not brought to a vote.

May 11, 2022

The Follow-up Report of Recommendations made to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation was discussed. A motion was put forward:

- That we do actually have the meeting with the witnesses.
 - Moved by John A MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

A clarification was sought regarding the witnesses for the topic relating to Grant Programs. A motion was put forward:

- To remove Agriculture from that list of witnesses.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That at the first meeting in September, Nova Scotia Power appear.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5 Nays/ 4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

May 18, 2022

The committee agreed unanimously to deal with committee business during the in camera meeting and it was agreed to make the decisions public.

A motion was put forward:

- That we add one hour to the June 22nd meeting to deal with the training session follow-up.
 - Moved by John A. MacDonald, MLA
 - Motion carried

May 25, 2022

The committee has adopted a practice of endorsing Auditor General Recommendations. Motions were put forward:

- I move that the Public Accounts Committee formally accept and endorse recommendations contained in the 2022 Report of the Auditor General – Oversight and Management of Individuals Serving Community-Based Sentences: Department of Justice that have been accepted by the audited departments or agencies, and ask that those departments and agencies commit to and take responsibility for full and timely implementation of the recommendations accepted by those departments and agencies.
 - Moved by Dave Ritcey, MLA
 - Motion carried
- To endorse the recommendations in the 2021 Report of the Auditor General – Value for Money of Early COVID-19 Relief Programs for Individuals and Small Business: Education and Early Childhood Development; Finance and Treasury Board and in the 2021 Report of the Auditor General – Internet for Nova Scotia.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- To extend the Public Accounts Committee meeting for another half hour to deal with these motions and other motions that will be coming forward.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- To bring in the Department of Finance and Treasury Board and someone from the Premier's staff to discuss the newfound (gas) revenue windfall at the next Public Accounts meeting.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (5 Nays/4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee request the Office of the Auditor General to include recommendations from the May 2018 Report on Correctional Facilities in their follow-up report on the 2022 Report on Community Corrections.
 - Moved by Claudia Chender, MLA
 - Motion carried

A motion was put forward:

- That the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Nova Scotia Power come back to the Public Accounts Committee the second week of October to discuss power outages and power bills.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

June 1, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That we bring Nova Scotia Power at the next available session before we wrap for the summer to make that information (executive bonuses) public.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (5-Nays/4 Yeas)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- That we call upon the Department of Finance and Treasury Board and staff from the Premier's Office to appear next week before the Public Accounts Committee to discuss

their promise for a better paycheque and what they're doing with their newfound gas tax windfall that's helping low-income, middle-class, and working-class Nova Scotians.

- Moved by Hon. Brenda Maguire, MLA
- Recorded Vote (7 Nays/2 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

June 8, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That the Public Accounts Committee request the Department of Finance and Treasury Board appear before the committee to respond to questions related to the impact of a low wage economy on government revenue and expenses.
 - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
 - Recorded Vote (4 Yeas/5 Nays)
 - Motion defeated

A motion was put forward:

- To call Nova Scotia Power the 3rd week of October regarding power rates, infrastructure costs and bonuses.
 - Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA

The meeting time ran out and the motion was not able to be brought to a vote.

June 15, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- To move the June 29th meeting to July 6th so that members can attend graduations.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
 - Motion defeated

Motion that was left on the floor at the June 8, 2022, meeting:

- To call Nova Scotia Power the 3rd week of October regarding power rates, infrastructure costs and bonuses.
 - Moved by Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA
- A friendly amendment was made to add the Affordable Energy Coalition as a witness as well, which was agreed to.

John A. MacDonald, MLA, raised a Point of Order that the motion was out of order as it had already been brought before the committee and voted down.

The Chair ruled that the motion was in order.

- Recorded Vote (5 Nays/4 Yeas)
- Motion defeated

June 29, 2022

A motion was put forward:

- That the committee clarify that the member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier is able to participate in today's meeting of the Public Accounts Committee for the purposes of voting and quorum.
 - Moved by Hon. Derek Mombourquette, MLA
 - Motion carried

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