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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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No evidence of improper motive or purpose in Police Complaint Commissioner financial transactions says Auditor General

VICTORIA — Auditor General Wayne Strelloff today released the results of his review of financial management issues in the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner.

In his review of financial matters, Strelloff found no evidence that the Police Complaint Commissioner acted with improper motive or for improper purpose. However, he did conclude that the commissioner had failed to put in place sound financial management and accountability practices and that the financial affairs of the office were not adequately managed. "Important performance standards and practices which all public officials are expected to meet and follow were not adhered to by the Police Complaint Commissioner," says Strelloff.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner started operations in 1998. The commissioner is mandated to oversee complaints about police conduct, to ensure that the investigations are thorough and the outcomes fair. The commissioner is a statutory officer who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The first commissioner resigned in May 2002 and the process to find a new commissioner is underway.

The Auditor General undertook the review because allegations of possible financial improprieties had come to his attention and were being raised in public. "I believe that, in my capacity as Auditor General, I have a responsibility to bring clarity to issues raised in a very public forum," Strelloff said.

The work leading to the report focused on financial management issues. The Auditor General did not review the commissioner's decision-making surrounding the police complaints process nor did he look at the quality of general management or how staff were managed on a day-to-day basis.

He expressed particular concern about contract management practices. "Those practices pertaining to contract management and related spending authorities are the most serious as they contravene the Financial Administration Act," says the Auditor General.

The Auditor General examined the commissioner's annual reports and found them lacking. "None of the reports adequately discloses how financial resources were used."

Noting that the process to select a new commissioner is underway, Strelloff said, "I hope that the successful candidate will consider carefully the issues raised in this report so that similar problems are avoided in future."

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[2002/2003 Report 2 – A Review of Financial Management Issues in the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner](#)

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