



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
June 28, 2005

Auditor General says the control environment for the government's central accounting system is well managed overall.

VICTORIA — Auditor General Wayne Strelieff today released his first report on the audit of the controls over the government's corporate accounting system (CAS). This report highlights the work done by his office on operating system, database and governance controls.

CAS, the central accounting system for government, is a very large and complex system. By connecting to the shared government network, staff in all government ministries and many agencies throughout the province can access CAS and enter transactions. The system processes and records billions of dollars of government payments and revenue. These amounts are the sum of the large number of transactions that are recorded in the system – almost 7 million annually.

Incorrect data, as a result of human error or unauthorized access to the system, could potentially result in incorrect payments or financial information. And system maintenance issues or insufficient processing capacity could result in government staff being unable to access CAS and in disruptions to payments to government suppliers and employees. Therefore, strong controls should be in place to prevent these security and processing problems, or to detect them if they do occur.

Strelieff's Office examined the processes in place that address three main questions:

1. Does senior management have a process in place to ensure that the information technology (IT) strategy for CAS is aligned with the government's business strategies and the CAS IT environment is managed in a way to ensure the continuous and effective delivery of service?
2. Does the UNIX operating environment that CAS runs in, have adequate controls in place to ensure it is secure and will meet current and future business requirements?
3. Is the Oracle database used by CAS adequately controlled to ensure that the information stored in it is secure and can be relied on?

“All systems of internal control involve accepting some level of risk” Strelieff said. “It is management's role to assess the relevant risks associated with identified deficiencies and either implement procedures to minimize those risks or develop plans to manage the deficiencies.”

Overall, his Office found the control environment they examined to be well managed. There were 14 recommendations made in the report that would further improve the control environment. These recommendations addressed deficiencies in policies and procedures, business continuation planning, capacity planning, and restrictions to Internet access and access by internal support staff. In their response, the government has stated that many of the recommendations have already been acted on by Corporate Accounting Services, the government program area responsible for the system.

2005/06 Report #3 – Audit of the government’s Corporate Accounting System: Part 1

[Backgrounder attached](#)

[Download complete report in .PDF format](#) (size 199 KB)

This report is available:

On the Internet at the Office of the Auditor
General homepage
<http://www.bcauditor.com>

By contacting:
Office of the Auditor General
8 Bastion Square
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
Tel: 250 387-6803
Fax: 250 387-1230

Toll free enquiries by dialing *Enquiry BC* at 1-800-663-7867 (in Vancouver 604 660-2421) and requesting a transfer to 387-6803.



[Top of page](#)