



NEWS RELEASE

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Auditor General reports that there is room for improvement in government's financial statement practices

VICTORIA—Today, in a report entitled *Observations on Financial Reporting: Audit Findings Report on the 2007/08 Summary Financial Statements*, Auditor General John Doyle comments on the government of British Columbia's financial statement accounting and reporting practices. The report also contains significant issues and findings arising from the audit of the Summary Financial Statements for 2007/08, which are included in the Province's Public Accounts.

Mr. Doyle concluded that the Summary Financial Statements are fairly presented according to Canadian accounting standards; however, there were a number of issues that resulted in reservations to his audit opinion.

The audit reservations on the Summary Financial Statements represent issues so significant that, if uncorrected, might mislead a financial statement user. And, according to Mr. Doyle, in many cases the underlying accounting, or amendments to the notes to the financial statements, would have been relatively easy to remedy. Mr. Doyle goes on to state, "I am puzzled that government would choose to have these reservations in my audit opinion rather than correct the deficiencies".

Mr. Doyle summarized, "While in general government's Summary Financial Statements are acceptable, they could be better".

The report is available on the Auditor General's website www.bcauditor.com.

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2008/09 Report #9 – Improving Financial Reporting for British Columbians: A Report on the 2007/08 Summary Financial Statements

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A copy of the full report is available on our website at: www.bcauditor.com