



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Deficiencies found in government's technology controls

VICTORIA – B.C.'s Auditor General, John Doyle, has released his latest report, *The Status of IT controls in British Columbia's public sector: An analysis of audit findings*, which summarizes IT-related issues identified during an audit of government's financial statements.

"Since 2008, my Office has released an overview of IT control deficiencies in our annual report on government's public accounts," said Doyle. "This year, however, we are publishing this information separately, to highlight the significance and persistence of these issues."

The information in the report comes from 154 management letters sent to organizations within the government reporting entity (GRE). These letters communicated findings from financial statement audits for fiscal years ending March, July and December 2011, and identified problems that need to be addressed including relevant IT-related issues. The Office's analysis is organized into five categories of IT general controls:

- information security management;
- IT control environment;
- change management;
- availability of data processing; and
- physical security.

"Almost one-third of the issues identified in government's financial statement audit related to IT controls, and more than half of those had to do with deficiencies in ensuring that IT systems and data are protected," said Doyle. "Government's increased use of IT to conduct operations can improve efficiency and effectiveness, but it is not without its risks."

About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

2012/13 Report 3 – *The Status of IT controls in British Columbia's public sector: An analysis of audit findings*

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