



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 7, 2020

Auditor general outlines performance, goals and priorities

VICTORIA – Russ Jones, acting auditor general, has released the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia’s 2019/20 annual report and financial statements.

The report provides an overview of the office’s performance last year, as well as its current goals and objectives.

“This year, like every year, we conducted the largest financial audit in the province, which takes approximately 40,000 hours of work,” said Jones. “We also produced 45 financial audit reports, 8 performance audit reports and six information reports and plans.”

Through conversations with the public, government employees and members of the legislative assembly from all sides of the house, the office selects performance audit topics that will carry the greatest relevance and value to the people of British Columbia. In 2019/20, the office received more than 300 public inquires, including nearly 30 audit requests.

Some of the audit topics from 2019/20 included:

- [expense policies and practices](#) at the B.C. legislature for the offices of the Speaker, clerk and sergeant-at-arms
- whether the Ministry of Health and provincial health officer took adequate action to [protect B.C.’s drinking water](#)
- the Ministry of Children and Family Development’s [oversight of contracted residential services](#) to deliver housing, food and other supports for the most vulnerable children and youth in care
- whether a sample of ministries had designed and implemented key IT controls for [protecting government information and information assets](#) from unauthorized access
- [procurement practices at the BC Liquor Distribution Branch](#)

Beyond audit work, the office held events that raised more than \$23,000 for charity through the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, which supports local causes across the province.

Near the end of the fiscal period covered by this report, the office rapidly turned its attention to identifying and addressing the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were risks to staff health and safety working both in the office and remotely, but also to the office’s ability to carry out its mandate as the public sector entities that it audits are responding and recovering.



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

“With support from a staff advisory committee, a team is now working on an office reintegration plan to guide us as we adjust to this new normal,” said Jones.

Related links

[Annual Report 2019/20](#)

[Financial Statements 2019/20](#)

About the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

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 to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us

For general questions and interview requests:

Julie Gauthier

JGauthier@bcauditor.com

Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia

250 419-6204

www.bcauditor.com

Subscribe to receive report e-notifications at www.bcauditor.com/reach/subscribe