



Communities,
Land and
Environment

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Communautés,
Terres et
Environnement



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April 20, 2017

Ms. B. Jane MacAdam
Auditor General
Office of the Auditor General
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Dear Ms. MacAdam:

Thank you for your letter dated March 10, 2017 requesting a response to recommendations contained in the 2017 Auditor General's (AG) report pertaining to climate change. The recommendations are well received and many, through the efforts of the new Climate Change Secretariat, are being implemented presently.

The PEI Climate Change Secretariat (CSS), which has membership from several departments, is located in the Department of Communities Land and Environment (CLE) is leading the coordination of the provincial governments climate change related efforts by overseeing the development of a new Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which will encompass both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

The CCS has been meeting on a regular basis since October of 2016. The CCS has created five sectoral based working groups that will assist in the development of the above mentioned CCAP. Recommendations from the recently released Dunskey Energy Inc report "*Recommendations for the Development of a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy*" are being considered by the working groups. Advice from the working groups will form the basis of the mitigation aspect of the CCAP. Climate change adaptation recommendations from the UPEI Climate Change Research Lab will be considered by the working groups in the fall of 2017 and their subsequent advice will be incorporated into the CCAP in 2018.

Comments specific to the report's recommendations are as follows:

2.43 *The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should coordinate provincial strategy development and implementation related to climate change.*

The CCS, which is housed within the Department of Communities, Land and Environment, is in the process of developing a CCAP which will include both strategies and implementation measures regarding climate change.

2.44 The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should develop a climate change strategy including both mitigation and adaptation which focuses on the key risks and vulnerabilities of the province. The strategy should include at a minimum objectives; planned actions; timeframe; roles and responsibilities; and public reporting requirements.

The pending CCAP will encompass both mitigation and adaptation strategy components. The CCAP will be constructed in stages with the mitigation components being added in 2017. Adaptation components will be added in 2018. A risk assessment from a climate change perspective is to begin in 2017. This assessment will inform the secretariat on risks to public assets. Work being done by UPEI Climate Research Lab will inform the Secretariat on risks to other assets. The CCAP will include objectives; planned actions; timeframe; roles and responsibilities; and details around public reporting.

2.45 Executive Council should approve provincial climate change strategies.

The CCAP will be presented to Executive Council for approval.

2.46 The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should provide annual public reports on progress made to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The CCS will be reporting on progress made to adapt to and mitigate climate change on a regular basis by way of report writing and through web-based venues. At a minimum there will be annual reports submitted to the legislature.

2.66 Executive Council should establish clearly defined provincial targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. These targets should be publicly communicated.

Provincial targets will be considered as part of the mitigation portion of the CCAP, which will be submitted to Executive Council for approval. Any target(s) adopted will be publically communicated.

2.67 The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should ensure documented implementation plans are completed for all key mitigation actions. This would include at a minimum: assignment of responsibility; timelines for each action; financial and other resources required; and performance measures.

The CCAP will include measures for implementation on key actions around climate change mitigation including the assignment of leads, determination of timelines, required resources including partnerships, as well as listing co-benefits and metrics to measure progress.

2.76 The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should prepare a province-wide risk assessment for adaptation to climate change. This assessment should identify, analyze and prioritize key risks.

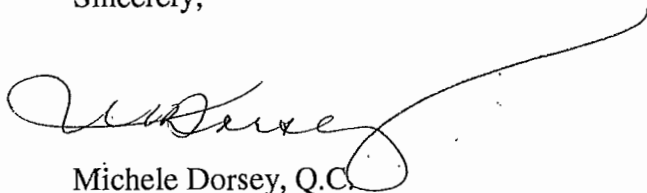
A risk assessment of public assets from climate change is to begin in 2017. This assessment is being lead by TIE and will inform the secretariat on risks to public assets. The working being done by UPEI Climate Research Lab will inform the secretariat on risks to other assets.

2.77 The Department of Communities, Land and Environment should ensure documented implementation plans are completed for all key adaptation actions. This would include at a minimum: assignment of responsibility; timelines for each action; financial and other resources required; and performance measures.

The CCAP will include measures for implementation on key actions around climate change adaptation including the assignment of leads, determination of timelines, required resources including partnerships, as well as listing co-benefits and metrics to measure progress.

In closing we wish to confirm that our operational plan to deliver a *Climate Change Action Plan* includes the recommendations arising from your audit. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Michele Dorsey, Q.C.
Deputy Minister