



Third Report

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# SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO APPOINT STATUTORY OFFICERS: APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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October 2025



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

First Session, 43rd Parliament



October 30, 2025

To the Honourable the  
Legislative Assembly of the  
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

We have the honour to present herewith the Third Report of the Special Committee to Appoint Statutory Officers containing our unanimous recommendation regarding the appointment of an Auditor General.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Janet Routledge, MLA  
Chair

Linda Hepner, MLA  
Deputy Chair

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# Composition of the Committee

## Members

Janet Routledge, MLA, [Chair](#)  
Burnaby North

Linda Hepner, MLA, [Deputy Chair](#)  
Surrey-Serpentine River

Tara Armstrong, MLA  
Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream (from September 12, 2025)

Garry Begg, MLA  
Surrey-Guildford (from September 12, 2025)

Harman Bhangu, MLA  
Langley-Abbotsford

Stephanie Higginson, MLA  
Ladysmith-Oceanside

Qwulti'stunaat / Debra Toporowski, MLA  
Cowichan Valley

## Committee Staff

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Jennifer Arril, Clerk of Committees

Katey Stickle, Senior Research Analyst

Natalie Beaton, Committee Research Analyst

Mary Heeg, Committee Research Analyst

Jonathon Hamilton, Committee Researcher

Danielle Migeon, Committee Researcher

Alexa Neufeld, Parliamentary Committees Officer

Emily Andrews, Committees Coordinator

Kayla Wilson, Committees Coordinator

# Terms of Reference

On February 24, 2025 and May 29, 2025, the Legislative Assembly agreed that a Special Committee to Appoint Statutory Officers be appointed to select and unanimously recommend to the Legislative Assembly the appointment of:

- a. an individual to hold office as Auditor General, pursuant to section 2 of the *Auditor General Act* (S.B.C. 2003, c. 2);
- b. an individual to hold office as Chief Electoral Officer, pursuant to section 4 of the *Election Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 106);
- c. an individual to hold office as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, pursuant to section 14 of the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 287);
- d. an individual to hold office as Merit Commissioner, pursuant to section 5.01 of the *Public Service Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 385); and,
- e. an individual to hold office as Ombudsperson, pursuant to section 2 of the *Ombudsperson Act* (R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 340).

That the Special Committee have the powers of a Select Standing Committee and in addition be empowered to:

- a. appoint of its number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Special Committee and to delegate to the subcommittees all or any of its powers except the power to report directly to the House;
- b. sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;
- c. adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and,
- d. retain personnel as required to assist the Special Committee.

That the Special Committee report to the House on each of its recommendations as soon as possible, and that during a period of adjournment, the Special Committee deposit its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, or in the next following Session, as the case may be, the Chair present all reports to the House.

# Introduction

The Auditor General is an officer of the Legislature responsible for carrying out the duties and powers set out in the *Auditor General Act* (the Act), which includes conducting financial and performance audits and tabling those reports with the Legislative Assembly prior to the public release of audit, information, and examination reports. The Auditor General's work assists the Legislative Assembly in fulfilling its role in holding the executive branch of government accountable.

Section 2 of the Act provides that the Legislative Assembly may, by resolution, appoint a person to the position of Auditor General who has been unanimously recommended for appointment by the committee of the Legislative Assembly specified for that purpose. The Auditor General holds office for a single term of eight years and is not eligible for reappointment.

The Office of the Auditor General is located in Victoria, British Columbia. The Office's operating budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year is \$26.981 million, which includes funding for approximately 130 full-time equivalent positions.

The Auditor General is accountable to and reports to the Legislative Assembly through both the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and through any designated parliamentary committees. Oversight of the Auditor General and other statutory officers is currently assigned to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The Select Standing Committee is responsible for considering and making recommendations regarding the annual budgets of the statutory offices, as well as considering their annual reports, service plans, and any other matters that may arise regarding the administration of their offices. It is additionally required to appoint an independent auditor to audit the financial statements of the Office of the Auditor General.

Reports from the Office of the Auditor General regarding audits of the provincial summary financial statements and performance audit reports are referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Audit reports regarding the Legislative Assembly are referred to the Legislative Assembly Management Committee.

The previous Auditor General, Michael Pickup, was appointed for an eight-year term effective July 27, 2020. On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Committee extends

its appreciation to Mr. Pickup for his service as Auditor General. Following Mr. Pickup's retirement, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services appointed Sheila Dodds as Acting Auditor General effective November 15, 2024, pursuant to section 7 (4) of the Act. Committee Members, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, convey their sincere thanks to Ms. Dodds for her work as Acting Auditor General and her commitment to providing continuity for the Office.

This report contains the Committee's unanimous recommendation to the Legislative Assembly regarding the appointment of the province's next Auditor General.

## Meetings Schedule

The Committee met on the following dates for the purposes described below.

### First Session, 43rd Parliament

March 12, 2025	Organizational Meeting
April 2, 2025	Organizational Meeting
April 30, 2025	Organizational Meeting
August 6, 2025	Deliberations
September 11, 2025	Interviews
September 12, 2025	Interviews and Deliberations
October 1, 2025	Deliberations
October 22, 2025	Deliberations and Adoption of Report

# Recruitment Process

The Committee began its work to appoint an Auditor General on March 12, 2025, with an organizational meeting. The Committee elected a Chair and Deputy Chair and adopted a motion to hold all meetings and deliberations on a confidential, *in camera* basis, in keeping with the usual practice of appointment committees. Members also reviewed a workplan for the Committee's activities and approved the job description (see Appendix A) for the position of Auditor General.

The Committee accepted applications for the position from May 12 to June 20, 2025. Advertisements were placed in select provincial and national media, posted on job boards, distributed to relevant professional associations, and shared on the Legislative Assembly's social media accounts. By the closing date, the Committee received 11 applications.

Members carefully assessed all applicants for their experience overseeing large, complex, or sensitive financial and performance audits and ensuring compliance with relevant policies, standards, regulations, and legislation. The Committee also considered applicants' experience in organizational management, ability to work with diverse communities including Indigenous peoples, and personal suitability for appointment as an independent, non-partisan officer of the Legislature.

On September 11 and 12, 2025, the Committee interviewed five applicants. Committee Members considered applicants' experience overseeing audits and analyzing compliance with professional standards, legislation, and policies. They also considered candidates' perspectives on leadership, effective communication with media and auditees, and selection of government programs and organizations to be audited. Additionally, the Committee examined candidates' experience exercising judgment in difficult situations, navigating resource management challenges, and fostering a respectful work environment.

In its deliberations, the Committee was especially impressed by Bridget Parrish. Members noted Ms. Parrish's experience as Assistant Auditor General and Acting Deputy Auditor General within the Office of the Auditor General and her deep understanding of financial and performance audit processes and standards which positioned her to provide leadership on

the most challenging and complex audit files in the Office. The Committee recognized Ms. Parrish's strong existing relationships with the Office's staff and highlighted her focus on employee engagement, empowerment, and development, including her commitment to ensuring a respectful and inclusive workplace.

The Committee valued Ms. Parrish's perspectives and experience regarding the modernization of accounting and auditing processes to enhance audit delivery. Members also commended her perspectives on building positive and transparent relationships with government, auditees, and the Legislative Assembly and its committees. The Committee noted that Ms. Parrish displayed a strong commitment to values and ethics that would be beneficial in the role, including credibility, accountability, and transparency. For these reasons, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Legislative Assembly that Bridget Parrish be appointed as Auditor General.

# Recommendation

The Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly that Bridget Parrish be appointed as Auditor General, pursuant to section 2 of the *Auditor General Act* (S.B.C. 2003, c. 2), for a term of eight years, commencing on December 1, 2025.

# Biographical Information

Bridget Parrish joined the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia in December 2014, where she has served as a member of the senior leadership team within the Office and is currently the Acting Deputy Auditor General and Equity Diversity and Inclusion Lead. In these roles, Bridget has overseen the operations of the Office ensuring high standards in professional practices while fostering a culture of inclusion. Since she joined the office, Bridget became a trusted leader in the legislative audit community, committed to delivering impactful, practical solutions that support the public interest.

Prior to joining the office, Bridget worked for over a decade as an auditor in public practice in Calgary serving clients in a wide range of industries. Born and raised in Victoria, Bridget holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Victoria and is a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia.

With over 20 years of experience in accounting and assurance, Bridget has developed a deep expertise in applying assurance standards across both the private and public sectors. In recognition, Bridget was recently awarded a prestigious appointment as a member of the Canadian Audit and Assurance Standards Board where she helps shape emerging standards and represents the interests of the Canadian public sector.



# Appendix A: Job Description



## Auditor General Job Description

### Position Overview

The Auditor General is an officer of the Legislature appointed as set out in the *Auditor General Act* (the “Act”). As a non-partisan officer of the Legislature, the Auditor General is independent from the executive branch of government, and reports and is accountable to the Legislative Assembly.

The Auditor General’s work assists the Legislative Assembly to fulfill its role in holding the executive branch of government accountable. The Auditor General carries out the duties and powers set out in the Act, which includes conducting financial and performance audits and tabling those reports with the Legislative Assembly prior to the public release of audit, information, and examination reports.

### Appointment Term and Process

Section 2 of the Act provides that the Legislative Assembly may, by resolution, appoint a person to the position of Auditor General who has been unanimously recommended for appointment by the committee of the Legislative Assembly specified for that purpose (the “Special Committee”). The Auditor General holds office for a single term of eight years and is not eligible for reappointment.

### Location

The Office of the Auditor General (the “Office”) is located in Victoria, British Columbia. The Auditor General is expected to reside in the Greater Victoria region.

### Compensation and Benefits

Pursuant to section 4 of the Act, the Auditor General is to be paid a salary equal to the salary paid to the chief judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia. For the 2025-26 fiscal year, the estimated salary is \$411,840.

The Auditor General is reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred in performing the duties of the position and is eligible for enrolment in the Public Service Pension Plan, in accordance with the terms and conditions of that plan. The detailed terms and conditions of appointment and the associated benefits are specified in the letter of offer provided to the recommended candidate by the Special Committee.

### Accountability to the Legislative Assembly and Statutory Reporting Requirements

As an officer of the Legislature (also referred to as a statutory officer), the Auditor General is accountable and reports to the Legislative Assembly through both the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and through any designated parliamentary committees.

The Legislative Assembly has delegated general oversight of statutory officers and their respective offices to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The oversight delegated to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services includes considering and making recommendations regarding annual reports, service plans, office budgets, and any other matters that

may arise respecting the effective and efficient administration of the Office. Such delegated oversight may be adjusted from time to time by resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Section 11 (1) of the Act requires that the Auditor General report annually to the Legislative Assembly on the audit of the financial statements of the government reporting entity. Section 11 (8) also requires that the Auditor General report to the Legislative Assembly, at least once each fiscal year, on anything resulting from the work undertaken to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Auditor General that the Auditor General determines should be brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly. Currently all reports of the Auditor General issued under section 11 (8) are referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts for review, except for reports of the Auditor General respecting the Legislative Assembly prepared under the provisions of the *Legislative Assembly Management Committee Act* which are referred to the Legislative Assembly Management Committee and the Auditor General's annual report and service plan referred to in section 22 of the Act which are referred to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The Legislative Assembly has also delegated to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts the responsibility for approving the Auditor General's annual plan for the appointment of auditors for government organizations and trust funds for the coming three fiscal years.

### Statutory Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

The Auditor General carries out the powers, duties, and responsibilities set out in the Act, including but not limited to:

- serving as auditor of the government reporting entity, each ministry, each statutory office, and each fund or appropriate part of the consolidated revenue fund;
- providing the Legislative Assembly with independent reports, assurance, and advice regarding the stewardship of public funds;
- conducting performance audits of public sector organizations or programs to assess whether objectives are being achieved effectively and efficiently; and
- undertaking additional examinations at the request of the Legislative Assembly or one of its committees.

### Financial and Human Resources Management

The Auditor General is accountable for the effective and efficient administration of the Office. As the head of the Office, the Auditor General has managerial authority over staff, which currently consists of approximately 130 full-time equivalent positions. The Office's operating budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year is \$26,981,000.

In addition to the Auditor General's statutory reporting requirements, the Auditor General is expected to issue multi-year strategic plans for the Office, that include goals and performance measures for consideration by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on an annual basis. The Auditor General is also expected to provide accurate and fiscally responsible budget proposals, forecasts, and reporting in alignment with the expectations set by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The Auditor General is expected to ensure that the Office has policies and procedures in place to ensure the responsible management of financial and human resources, including standards of conduct and respectful workplace policies applicable to the Office's staff.

## Qualifications

### Education and Experience

- A degree from a recognized university, preferably with a specialization in finance or accounting
- A Chartered Professional Accountant with a provincial public practice audit licence or eligibility to obtain such a licence within six months of appointment
- Experience overseeing large, complex, or sensitive financial and performance audits
- Experience analyzing financial statements, transactions, and other large volumes of data to ensure compliance with relevant policies, standards, regulations, and legislation
- Experience in financial, human resources, and organizational management in a senior capacity
- Experience communicating with the public, media, and senior officials
- Experience working with and meeting the needs of diverse communities, including Indigenous Peoples

### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

#### *Knowledge*

- Knowledge of auditing and accounting standards
- Knowledge of the statutory and policy framework governing financial management and administration in the provincial public sector
- Knowledge of developments within the Canadian and international financial accounting and auditing fields
- Knowledge of the context within which the Auditor General operates, including the Legislative Assembly and its parliamentary committees, the Executive Council, government, the public service, and external stakeholders
- Understanding of the province's distinct relationship with First Nations

#### *Leadership*

- Strong leadership skills, including the ability to manage, motivate, and develop strong relationships with staff, based on trust, respect, effective communication, and common goals
- Ability to build and maintain a respectful and inclusive workplace culture
- Ability to demonstrate strategic thinking and long-term vision to set and achieve organizational goals and lead organizational change

#### *Organizational Management*

- Organizational management skills including managing assets effectively and preparing organizational budgets while exercising discretion in spending matters
- Ability to promote public accountability and transparency in the work of the Office
- Ability to improve organizational performance by identifying, promoting, or introducing previously unknown or untried procedures

#### *Communication and Relationship-Building*

- Demonstrated collaboration and interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to articulate the importance of independent auditing and transparency of government administration and finances
- Ability to build effective relationships with Members, parliamentary committees, government and audited organizations, and external stakeholders

- Ability to interact effectively and respectfully with Indigenous peoples, as well as communities and individuals from diverse backgrounds

#### *Analysis and Judgement*

- Strong problem-solving aptitude and ability to conceptualize new strategies and approaches to addressing complex issues and organizational needs
- Ability to make sound and impartial decisions in routine, sensitive, and/or public matters
- Ability to balance and weigh relevant facts and circumstances and to exercise professional judgement in providing audit opinions

#### **Personal Suitability**

- Demonstrated record of non-partisanship
- High degree of integrity and strong personal and professional ethics
- Commitment to the values of impartiality, fairness, transparency, and accountability
- Respected in chosen career and in the community at large

#### **Personal Conduct**

The Auditor General is expected to uphold their oath of office, abide by all policies of the Office, and create, foster, and maintain a safe and positive work environment for all staff. This includes modelling respectful and professional conduct expected of a senior public officeholder.

The appointment of the Auditor General will be subject to the successful completion of a criminal record check.

