

Chapter 1

Introductory Comments

Contents

Overview	3
Acknowledgements	4

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Overview

1.1 In this volume of our 2009 Report, we are reporting on four projects: our audit of provincial testing of students in the Anglophone education sector; our analysis of the Department of Environment's Environmental Trust Fund; our audit of the Province's governance structure related to the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, and our review of the Province's contract with Shannex Inc. for nursing home beds. We have also included in this volume our follow-up work on some of the recommendations we made in prior years.

1.2 While this report contains four projects, each of those projects was narrowly scoped. This is a result of our recent budget constraints which make it difficult for us to examine large or complex government programs.

1.3 Our objectives in our audit of provincial testing of students in the Anglophone education sector were to assess the Department of Education's strategic direction and the process for administering its provincial testing of students in the Anglophone sector.

1.4 In our analysis of the Environmental Trust Fund, we wanted to determine if the purpose of the fund is clear, if the fund is operating as intended and if its results are measured and reported.


1.5 Our objective in the audit of the Innovation Foundation was to assess whether the governance structures and practices established by Business New Brunswick in connection with the delivery of innovation funding through the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation ensure accountability and protection of the public interest.

1.6 In our review of the Province's contract with Shannex Inc. for nursing home beds, we wanted to find the answer to eight specific questions related to the tendering of the contract and to the contract itself.

1.7 Our follow-up work on recommendations we have made in the past once again indicates that government is slow to implement our recommendations.

Acknowledgements

1.8 I wish to acknowledge the hard work of the staff in the Office in completing this volume of our Report. I believe that each chapter in the Report contains information that is useful to the members of the Legislative Assembly.



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