



# Risks Exist in Government's Oversight of Crown Agencies – Executive Council Office

Report of the Auditor General – Volume I, Chapter 4 – October 2021

---

## Why Is This Important?

Risks exist if the tools used in government's oversight of Crown agencies do not contain the information required by legislation:

- The best interests of New Brunswickers may not be served.
- The government and the public may not be fully informed on whether or not Crown agencies are meeting their mandated priorities and objectives such as the delivery of health care or economic development programs, etc.

## Overall Conclusion

- We found overall, the Executive Council Office and most Crown agencies did not comply with all of the requirements of the *Accountability and Continuous Improvement Act* when preparing critical documents needed for oversight.

## What We Found

### ECO Does Not Monitor if Crown Agencies Comply with Legislation

- The Executive Council Office does not monitor if annual plans or annual reports comply with the *Accountability and Continuous Improvement Act*
- The Executive Council Office has a mandate to “monitor the on-going progress in achieving government objectives.”

### The *Accountability and Continuous Improvement Act* Legislates:

- three critical documents to be prepared for government oversight: mandate letters, annual plans and annual reports; and
- what should be included in each critical document and who should prepare and approve each critical document.

But, the Act is silent when it comes to monitoring annual plans and annual reports for compliance with the Act.

### Critical Oversight Documents: Missing Required Legislated Information

- *Mandate letters* were not issued or issued late: Crown agencies may not be aware of government priorities and objectives or may not be able to implement them in a timely manner
- *Mandate letters* did not contain all the information required by legislation: Crown agencies may not have been fully informed of government priorities and objectives
- *Annual plans* did not fully contain the priorities and objectives included in the mandate letter: Crown agencies may not be considering how they will implement government priorities and objectives
- *Annual reports* did not fully contain results of how government priorities and objectives were met: Government and New Brunswickers may be unable to see if Crown agencies carried out government priorities and objectives