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Office of the Auditor General

Nova Scotia

AUDITOR GENERAL--May 2020 Report on Follow-up of 2015, 2016, and 2017 Performance Audit Recommendations

In his May 2020 Report on the follow-up of recommendations made in performance audits reported in 2015, 2016, and 2017, released today, May 12th, Auditor General Michael A. Pickup noted the government continues to address many of the recommendations from his previous audits, but risks may remain for those recommendations where government has not completed the improvements they promised to.

“For our 2015 recommendations, government completed 93 percent of the recommendations after four years which is a very positive result. Government has continued to work to implement the recommendations that were outstanding last year, and only five recommendations remain not complete.”

“For 2016 recommendations, government completed 70 percent of the recommendations. After three years this completion rate should be higher. Five audits need attention as they have lower overall completion rates. These audits cover subjects important to Nova Scotians, including Species at Risk, School Capital Planning, Homes for Special Care, Licensed Child Care, and Critical Infrastructure Resiliency. These are critical areas of how government operates.”

“For the 2017 recommendations, government completed 81 percent of the recommendations, which is a good sign of things getting done. There are nine recommendations not yet complete.”

In his report, the Auditor General highlights the organizations that completed all of their promised actions, and the organizations that have recommendations still outstanding.

“The report includes summaries prepared by management of what they have done, or plan to do, to address recommendations that are not complete. We have also included summaries prepared by management for all performance audit recommendations from 2018. We did not audit the summaries prepared by management, but this additional information is one tool to assist the Public Accounts Committee, the House of Assembly, and the citizens of Nova Scotia in holding government accountable.”

“Government has publicly said the generally accepted timeframe for completing agreed-upon Auditor General recommendations is two years. We encourage organizations with recommendations not yet complete to continue to work toward the timely completion of every recommendation we made to them, to address the continued risks and to help promote better government for all Nova Scotians.”

The full report, report summary, highlight video, and questions that Nova Scotians may want to ask government are available at <<https://oag-ns.ca/publications/2020>>.

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