

NEWS RELEASE

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PROVINCE'S ROAD UPKEEP PROGRAMS WELL-MANAGED OVERALL

VICTORIA – B.C.'s road upkeep programs are generally well-managed, says Auditor John Doyle in his latest report, although there are still some opportunities for improvement. The report, *Upkeep of the Provincial Roads Network by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*, examined whether management of road upkeep programs was being done in an economical, efficient and effective manner.

“Overall, government is managing its road maintenance programs well, and showing careful regard for cost, efficiency and effectiveness,” said Doyle. “This is an encouraging finding, considering the importance of the road network for the well-being and safety of all B.C. communities.”

Among the key findings were that the ministry was taking the necessary steps to ensure that contractors were completing their required work, and that there were clear and well-defined roles for the ministry and the contractors. In addition, the relationship between the ministry and its contractors is positive and collaborative. The ministry also runs a results-oriented management system while striving for continuous improvement.

The audit identified some opportunities for improvement, such as managing the ministry's assets and work backlog to achieve the greatest long-term value, as well as creating a more robust set of measuring and reporting practices by which to gauge the ministry's success.

“In B.C., there have been missed opportunities to invest in the road network, such as during times of economic strength,” said Doyle. “Going forward, I would like to see government demonstrate that its long-term decision making will provide British Columbians with the best value – the longest duration of service for the least amount of money.”

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

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2010/11 Report #7 – *Upkeep of the Provincial Roads Network by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*

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