



NEWS RELEASE

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Auditor General releases reports aimed at strengthening board governance

VICTORIA—Continuing the previous work conducted by his Office, Auditor General John Doyle released two reports examining public-sector governance.

“Given that British Columbians interact with organizations such as school districts, health authorities and Crown corporations every day, I consider this to be an important area for my Office to look at,” said Doyle. “These two reports follow up on recent work I have conducted.”

The first of the two reports, titled *Public Sector Board Use of Information in British Columbia 2012: Progress Update Since 2009*, follows up on a survey of public-sector board members and corporate representatives to assess their access to, and use of, information. The 2012 survey showed that boards are more satisfied in many of the areas around use of information, but there is room for improvement.

“While we saw higher results in five of the six areas of good practice and four of the six sectors surveyed, including the three with the lowest scores in the 2009, we also discovered that the top results from our previous survey had slipped,” said Doyle. “This was a reminder of the importance of continued monitoring and maintenance of board performance.”

The second report, *School District Board Governance Examination*, looks at the board governance practices of three school boards across the province, continuing along the lines of a similar report released by the Office in 2012 examining four Crown agency boards. Doyle said that school boards oversee a large number of duties, ranging from managing things such as class sizes and student enrolment to providing educational programming, all of which require strong governance.

“Effective school board governance demands a great deal from elected trustees and the need for good governance cannot be overstated,” he said. “What I discovered through this examination is school board trustees are not sufficiently aware of the extensive board-governance guidance materials the provincial government has developed over the years, and need to strengthen their practices in some key areas.”

Doyle said his hope is that public-sector boards in British Columbia take advantage of the information provided in the reports.

“While these are two independent projects, the findings of both of these reports can help strengthen board governance and decision-making across the province,” he said.

About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.:

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 and his staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or the OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

2013/14 Report 2– *School District Board Governance Examination*

2013/14 Report 3 – *Public Sector Board Use of Information in British Columbia 2012: Progress Update Since 2009*

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