



# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

January 31, 2019

### **Auditor General releases two reports on program controls**

VICTORIA – The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia has released two new reports, one reviewing the controls in place to maintain the master supplier file and the other reviewing the program controls in place to manage the Short Term Illness and Injury Plan (STIIP).

The first report, *Master Supplier File Maintenance*, looks at the Ministry of Finance’s controls to maintain the master supplier file in the corporate financial system. The audit found that the controls for the master supplier file were not adequate and did not ensure accurate supplier records.

“The master supplier file is the central database of suppliers to government that have been approved to receive payments. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the validity and accuracy of the content,” said Auditor General Carol Bellringer. “Controlling the content and maintaining the accuracy of the file reduces the risk of problems, such as over or under payments to suppliers, and fraud.”

The second report, *The Short Term Illness and Injury Plan*, looks at the controls that the Public Service Agency uses to manage STIIP. The audit found that overall there was an effective control framework in place to manage STIIP, but there is room for improvement. The Public Service Agency could improve its oversight of STIIP to better monitor usage and coordinate with ministries.

“STIIP provides eligible employees with most of their earnings in the event that they are absent from work because of illness or injury,” said Bellringer.

“Program and system controls exist to prevent problems, and to identify and correct them,” Bellringer continued. “Effective controls are a core function of any well managed program and help to ensure that programs operate effectively.”

These are the third and fourth reports published by the office’s Compliance, Controls and Research group (CCR). CCR audits are designed to be smaller in size to better respond to time-sensitive issues and provide value to the people of British Columbia. The teams who conduct these audits use the same audit processes and follow the same standards as the teams who conduct larger performance audits.



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of British Columbia

Both reports are available on the Office of the Auditor General website at [www.bcauditor.com](http://www.bcauditor.com).

Bellringer will answer questions pertaining to these reports via a news conference.

News Conference Date: January 31, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time)

Dial-in Information:

From Vancouver: 604 681-0260

From elsewhere in Canada and the USA: 1 877 353-9184

Participant Pass Code: 44848#

During question and answer period, to ask a question: Press 01

During question and answer period, to exit the question queue: Press #

**About the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia**

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 staff to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

Contact us:

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