



2010 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Ontario December 6, 2010

The Auditor General anticipates releasing the Office's 2010 Annual Report on Monday, December 6, 2010. Below are brief descriptions of the value-for-money audits conducted by the Auditor General's Office this year and featured in the report.

Casino Gaming Regulation: The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario regulates, licenses, and inspects the province's 27 casinos and slot-machine facilities at racetracks. The audit assessed whether the Commission had adequate policies and systems in place to ensure that gaming was regulated in accordance with established policies and legislated requirements, and that the Commission was effective in ensuring that Ontario gaming facilities met the principles of honesty and integrity.

Discharge of Hospital Patients: More than one million patients are discharged each year from Ontario hospitals. The audit assessed whether selected hospitals have implemented effective and efficient policies, procedures, and systems for the safe and timely discharge of patients, and especially for the more than 20% who require home care, rehabilitation, or ongoing care in long-term-care homes.

Family Responsibility Office: Since 1987, all court orders for child and spousal support in Ontario have been automatically filed with and, in many cases, enforced by the Family Responsibility Office. The audit assessed whether the Office effectively enforced support obligations in a timely manner.

Home Care Services: Community Care Access Centres are responsible for providing home-care services to people who might otherwise need to stay in hospitals or long-term-care homes. The audit assessed whether there were mechanisms in place to meet the needs of people needing home-care services, to fund services based on client needs, to ensure a consistent level of service across the province, and to measure and report on the quality and effectiveness of services provided in the home.

Hospital Emergency Departments: In the 2008/09 fiscal year, there were about 5.4 million visits to Ontario's hospital emergency departments, at a cost of about \$960 million. The audit of selected emergency departments assessed whether they had adequate systems and procedures to meet patient needs in a cost-effective manner.

Infrastructure Asset Management at Colleges: Ontario's 24 colleges are responsible for managing their infrastructure assets, including buildings and major building components. The audit assessed whether the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, along with selected colleges, was ensuring that college infrastructure was being adequately maintained and renewed in accordance with appropriate long-term capital plans.

Infrastructure Stimulus Spending: Ontario and the federal government committed about \$3.45 billion each to a variety of programs to support infrastructure projects and create jobs during 2009 and 2010. The audit focused on three programs accounting for more than half of the total projected spending. It assessed whether adequate systems were in place to ensure the timely distribution and prudent administration of program funds, and to report on the effectiveness of these programs.

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation: The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation is responsible for assessing and reporting on the market value of most land and buildings in the province for the purpose of municipal property tax assessment. The audit assessed whether the Corporation ensured the assessment rolls it provides to municipalities are complete, accurate, and based on up-to-date information about individual properties.

Non-Hazardous Waste Disposal and Diversion: Each year, Ontario households and businesses and organizations in the industrial, commercial, and institutional sectors generate about 12.5 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste. The audit assessed whether the Ministry of the Environment had adequate procedures in place to encourage the sound management of this waste, including compliance with related legislation, regulations, and policies.

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: Under the authority and co-ordination of the Trillium Gift of Life Network, almost 1,000 organ transplants were carried out in the 2009/10 fiscal year at the eight Ontario hospitals that perform transplants. The audit assessed whether there were adequate policies, procedures, and systems in place, including at the Network, to meet the organ and tissue needs of Ontarians in an efficient and fair manner.

School Safety: The Ministry of Education spent about \$50 million a year in each of the last three years on school safety initiatives. The audit assessed whether the Ministry and selected school boards had adequate systems in place to ensure compliance with school safety legislation, to measure and report on the effectiveness of efforts to improve safety in Ontario schools, and to ensure that grants to school boards were spent as intended.

The 2010 Annual Report also includes a chapter on our work regarding the public accounts and the consolidated financial statements of the province, as well as a chapter on our review of government advertising under the Government Advertising Act, 2004.