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## Update on Prior Years' Report Items

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staffing levels both in the schools and at district office. School secretaries are seasonal employees, many of whom do not work seven hour days. It would be next to impossible, based on their daily work, to have them inventory these items. District office has seen a reduction in staff, again limiting the ability of the few to do the work. The Board indicated that given the isolation of the community in the majority of the cases, no desks, etc. are shared between schools. Desks remain in the schools until retired and disposed of, at which point they are replaced.

The Board indicated that other assets, such as vehicles, are controlled.

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## Department of Environment and Conservation

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### 3.2.2 Contaminated Sites (2002 Annual Report, Part 2.8)

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#### Introduction

In 2002, we performed a review of contaminated sites. The objective of our review was to determine whether contaminated sites were adequately controlled and managed.

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#### Conclusions from our 2002 review

As a result of our review, we concluded that there was no central inventory for contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province or those that are the responsibility of private owners. The lack of a central inventory made it more difficult for Government to determine the nature and extent of contaminated sites in the Province, the extent of progress of remediation efforts, and estimated future remediation costs to be incurred by Government.

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#### 2004 Update

In our 2004 annual report, we included an update on the Department's progress towards implementing the recommendation contained in our 2002 report item. At that time, Department officials indicated that they had set up a registry and database for the management of environmental sites, including contaminated sites and remediated sites. The Department also indicated that the registry and database contains those sites that are managed by the Waste Management Section of the Pollution Prevention Division, as well as some data for some but not all sites managed by the Government Service Centres. The Department indicated information on other sites would be put in the database once it became available.

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## Update on Prior Years' Report Items

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### Update

In October 2005, we contacted the Department of Environment and Conservation requesting an update as to the progress made to include previously excluded contaminated sites in the registry and database. The information provided by the Department in response to our request is outlined below.

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### 2002 Recommendation

*Government should establish a central inventory for contaminated sites which would facilitate the identification of future remediation costs.*

### Action Taken

The Department indicated that the registry and database of contaminated sites maintained by the Waste Management Section continues to be maintained up to date by section staff. It was further indicated that progress has been made in incorporating some information for sites managed by the Government Services Centre on an ongoing basis. As resources permit, the Department hopes to provide greater focus on managing government wide data in the future.

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### 3.2.3 Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust (2003 Annual Report, Part 2.35)

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#### Introduction

In 2003, we reviewed the trust agreement between the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust (the Trust) and the Province. The Trust was established by the then Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods on 22 March 1999 as an incorporated non-profit agency with a mandate to raise funds nationally and internationally to finance conservation projects in Newfoundland and Labrador. On 7 March 2000, the Province entered into a trust agreement with the Trust and paid the Trust \$1 million in seed funding. The Trust was transferred to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation on 19 June 2001.

The objectives of our review were to determine Government's involvement in establishing the Trust; whether the parties complied with the trust agreement; and whether Trust activities were adequately monitored.

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