

2.4 Reporting to the Legislative Assemblies

As an independent Officer, the Auditor General reports directly to the House of Assembly, at least annually, on anything the Auditor General feels should be brought to the Members' attention. The reports become a matter of public record and cover a wide range of issues of interest to legislators and the public, including compliance, evaluation of accountability relationships, management practices and control systems, and review of program results compared to established criteria. Having one auditor reporting to the House of Assembly is an efficient and effective means of ensuring that Members receive the information they need to hold Government accountable. The Auditor General also has direct access to the Public Accounts Committee. This provides a formal means of discussing reported audit findings with Members.

2.5 Expertise in Public Sector Matters

As a result of working exclusively in the public sector, Legislative Auditors have acquired extensive corporate and operational knowledge of government. They are specialists in the field of public sector auditing and their credibility with legislators (for example, on topics such as emerging public sector trends and accountability issues) is thus well established. Given their extensive interaction with legislators, Legislative Auditors are in the notable position of being aware of, and understanding legislators' concerns.

Furthermore, having a whole-of-government mandate has allowed Legislative Auditors to speak to legislators about broad government matters and to better identify those accountability and performance issues that have the greatest impact on government. As a consequence, Legislative Auditors are better able to promote consistency of accounting across government organizations, and to make informed decisions about the selection, conduct and reporting of audits.

2.6 To Whom are the Legislative Auditors Accountable?

Questions are raised from time to time about what the appropriate involvement and role of a Legislative Auditor should be and to whom Legislative Auditors are accountable?

The fact is, Legislative Auditors fulfill a distinctive position in the accountability regime of governments. They have been able to serve the accountability relationship between government and the Legislative Assembly because they have sufficient independence from government to be credible, they have mandates that are set out in legislation, and they