

## **2.36 Municipal Inspections**

The *Municipalities Act* includes provisions for the monitoring of municipal activities, including the requirement to submit annual balanced budgets and audited financial statements, and requiring prior approval of long-term borrowing by the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs .

Our review of municipal inspections by the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs indicated that the Department does not always receive budgets and financial statements of municipalities within the deadlines established under the *Municipalities Act*. Furthermore, the Department was not performing the annual municipal inspections in accordance with the *Act*. Although the Department implemented a new computerized Municipal Information Management System in 2002, not all information required for monitoring municipalities has been input into the system.

## **2.37 Inland Fish and Game Licences**

The Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation is responsible for the administration of inland fish and game licences in the Province. While the Division has overall responsibility for licensing, the Government Service Centres of the Department of Government Services, through an arrangement with the Division, distribute licences to vendors, receive payments from vendors for licences sold, and collect unsold licences from vendors for forwarding to the Division.

Over the eight years covered by our review, weaknesses in control have existed over the administration of inland fish and game licences. As well, licence fees due to the Province during that time have not been properly accounted for and amounts due from vendors have not been collected on a timely basis. While the Division has recently made some progress in dealing with these issues, I am concerned they had not been dealt with for such a significant period of time. I note that over this eight year period, both my Office and the Office of the Comptroller General have recommended several times that action be taken to address issues such as the increasing receivable balance, weaknesses in controls over receivables, and the absence of reliable information.