

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER**

Ref #: 168359

**FOR MEETING**

**Date:** September 9, 2016

**Title:** Minister's Meeting with the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) and the Chair of the Audit Council

**Issue:** The Minister will be meeting with Mr. Gordon Ruth, the AGLG, and Mr. Anthony Ariganello, the Chair of the Audit Council, for a quarterly meeting providing an update on AGLG operations.

**Background:**

The Office of the AGLG was established by the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* (the Act) in 2012. The purpose of the Office of the AGLG is to conduct independent performance audits of the operations of local governments and provide them with non-binding, objective recommendations to improve the effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of their operations and stewardship of public funds. Mr. Gordon Ruth was appointed as the AGLG in September 2015.

The Audit Council, a body of five financial, governance and local government experts, provides a governance and oversight role in relation to the Office of the AGLG. The Audit Council also reviews and monitors the performance of the AGLG.

<b>Mandate Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>Liquefied Natural Gas Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>Fiscal Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>First Nations Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>Communications:</b> See Recommended Response below.

**Discussion:**

**AGLG Activities since September 2015 (Appendix 1)**

The Office of the AGLG has been actively completing performance audits since the appointment of Mr. Ruth in September 2015. Over the past year the Office of the AGLG released 11 performance audit reports and two "perspectives booklets".

The Office of the AGLG also announced which communities will be subject to future performance audits in under the topics of "Local Government's Role in Ensuring Clean Drinking Water" and "Managing the Inherent Risks of Limited Human Resources within Small Local Governments".

In 2016, the Office of the AGLG released its annual service plan, providing an overview of its planned goals, objectives, and actions from 2016/17 to 2018/19, as required under the Act. The goals for this period are:

- Providing local governments with objective, helpful advice;

- Engaging and consulting with local governments and other stakeholders; and
- Strengthen the Office of the AGLG's foundation for success (e.g. increasing staff morale).

The Office of the AGLG also published its annual report describing its activities in 2015/16, in accordance with the statutory requirements. The annual report describes the Office of the AGLG's performance in relation to fulfilling its goals and objectives set out in its annual service plan.

### **Implementation of the Recommendations from the Independent Review of the Office of the AGLG**

In April 2015 the Audit Council initiated an independent review of the Office of the AGLG, which delivered recommendations to improve the AGLG's effectiveness and efficiency (Appendix 2). The Office of the AGLG, with the support of the Audit Council and the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development (CSCD), has been reviewing the recommendations and implementing changes in response to the recommendations. Most of the recommendations have been implemented, while implementation is underway for the remaining recommendations (Appendix 2).

### **AGLG Clinic at the 2016 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention**

Mr. Ruth will be leading a clinic at the annual UBCM Convention in September. The clinic will provide an overview of the mandate of the Office of the AGLG and the performance audit process. The clinic is intended to help attendees understand the nature of performance auditing, what to expect from the process, and how the work of the AGLG may strengthen the ability of individual local governments to serve their residents.

Mr. Ariganello (Audit Council Chair) , Art Kaehn (Chair, Fraser Fort George Regional District, which was recently subject to a performance audit), and Lori Berndt (Director, Performance Audit) will also be on the panel.

### **Performance review of the AGLG for 2015/16**

The Audit Council evaluated the performance of Mr. Ruth in his role as AGLG in June 2016. Specifically, the Audit Council reviewed Mr. Ruth's performance in relation to:

- The purpose and mandate of the AGLG;
- The AGLG's exercise of powers and the performance of duties under the Act; and
- The annual service plan.

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**Recommended Response:**

- Over the past year, the Office of the AGLG has been successful in fulfilling its mandate to provide local governments with objective recommendations to improve the effectiveness, economy, and efficiency of their operations and stewardship of public funds. The AGLG has a valuable role in providing advice to local governments and ensuring that local governments are accountable to the public.
- The Office of the AGLG has made significant progress in completing its performance audit program, engaging with local governments, and establishing an effective and supportive workplace. These actions have been supported by the members of the Audit Council.
- I encourage the Office of the AGLG to continue to build on the progress made over the past year. I am confident that the Office of the AGLG is functioning efficiently and is effectively serving the interests of British Columbia's taxpayers.

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Last update:02/12/2016 - Zucconi, Lydia CSCD:EX

### Appendix 1: Actions of the Office of the AGLG since September 2015

Action	Date
Published City of Cranbrook performance audit report on "Learnings from Local Government Capital Procurement Projects and Asset Management"	June 2016
Published the 2015/16 Annual Report	June 2016
Published City of Revelstoke performance audit report on Achieving Value for Money in Operational Procurement	May 2016
Announced auditees for performance audits under the topic of "Local Government's Role in Ensuring Clean Drinking Water"	May 2016
Announced auditees for performance audits under the topic of "Managing the Inherent Risks of Limited Human Resources within Small Local Governments"	April 2016
Published Regional District of Fraser-Fort George performance audit report on "Achieving Value for Money in Operational Procurement"	March 2016
Published City of Campbell River performance audit report on "Learnings from Local Government Capital Procurement Projects and Asset Management Programs"	March 2016
Published the Annual Service Plan for 2016/17-2018/19	March 2016
Published City of Williams Lake performance audit report on "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight"	February 2016
Published Perspectives Booklet on "Improving Local Government Procurement"	January 2016
Published City of New Westminster performance audit report on "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight:	January 2016
Published Perspectives booklet on "Policing Services Performance Assessment"	December 2015
Published City of Port Alberni performance audit report on "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight"	December 2015
Published City of Merritt performance audit report on "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight"	November 2015
Published City of Surrey performance audit report on "Local Government Performance in Managing Policing Agreements and Police Budget Oversight"	September 2015
Published District of West Vancouver performance audit report on "Achieving Value for Money in Operational Procurement"	September 2015
Published Comox Valley Regional District performance audit report on "Achieving Value for Money in Operational Procurement"	September 2015
Published Performance Audit Guide to help elected representatives and staff understand the process the AGLG follows in undertaking performance audits	September 2015



**Appendix 2: Report on the Governance and Operations of the Auditor General for Local Government:  
Status of Recommendations as of March 2016**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. <b>Onboarding:</b> Clearly define, roles, responsibilities and shared expectations between the Audit Council and AGLG, at the beginning of the working relationship.	AGLG and Audit Council, supported by CSCD and the Audit Council Secretariat.  Provincial government clearly defines roles and responsibilities through AGLG Act amendments.	AGLG/Audit Council MOU developed to define roles and responsibilities. Will be discussed by Audit Council and new AGLG.  Legislative amendments were passed in the Fall 2015 session and came into force upon Royal Assent on Nov 17, 2015. Amendments clarify roles and responsibilities.
2. <b>Accountability Framework:</b> Delineation of specific strategic and operational responsibilities for the AGLG and Audit Council.	AGLG and Audit Council  Provincial government clarifies defines roles and responsibilities through AGLG Act amendments.	AGLG/Audit Council MOU developed to define roles and responsibilities.  Legislative amendments were passed in the Fall 2015 session and came into force upon Royal Assent on Nov 17, 2015. Amendment clarifies responsibilities for the AGLG and Audit Council.
3. <b>Organizational Structure:</b> Review the appropriateness of the current model with respect to the number of staff dedicated to audit functions, reliance on contracted staff and increase utilization of shared/Ministry corporate services to reduce costs.	AGLG	The Acting AGLG (Arn van Iersel) completed a review in 2015 and shifted resources from contractors to staff, and increased the Office's use of shared services. The Audit Council supports this direction.
4. <b>Processes and Procedures:</b> Finalize the Audit Plan Manual and follow it.	AGLG	Work is underway to finalize the Audit Plan Manual.
5. <b>Benchmarks:</b> Establish and report out against specific metrics.	AGLG	To be developed by the new AGLG, agreed to by the Audit Council, and incorporated in the 2016/17 annual service plan.

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER**

Ref #: 168410

**FOR MEETING**

**Date:** September 8, 2016

**Title:** Sexual Offences on TransLink

**Issue:** Meeting with Transit Police Board Chair, Mark Reder on September 14, 2016, to discuss current and future work being done by Transit Police to address sexual offences on TransLink.

**Background:**

The Transit Police are a multi-jurisdictional policing agency dedicated to the provision of policing on the transit system in Metro Vancouver, including preventing and responding to incidents of sexual assaults. 167 officers and 67 civilians are responsible for 134 km of rail, 57 stations, 1,400 buses, one passenger ferry route, and 200 bus routes. Transit Police officers are designated provincial police officers, with full police powers. The Transit Police are an operating subsidiary of TransLink.

<b>Mandate Considerations:</b> As stated in <i>A Vision for Violence Free BC</i> , the government is committed to leading strategic actions over the next decade to make progress towards ending violence against women.
<b>Liquefied Natural Gas Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>Fiscal Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>First Nations Considerations:</b> N/A
<b>Communications:</b> In the first two weeks of June there was increased media reporting on assaults taking place on transit in Metro Vancouver.

**Discussion:**

- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Global BC reported rising numbers of sexual assault on Transit. Assaults are up 52% in two years:
  - 2013: 225 assaults
  - 2014: 311 assaults
  - 2015: 342 assaults
- On June 26<sup>th</sup> Minister Fassbender sent a letter to the Transit Police Board Chair, Mark Reder requesting a meeting to discuss what is being done by the Transit Police to reduce instances of sexual assault.
- Mr. Reder's reply letter indicated that the Transit Police have made reporting a central focus of their work, and engage in processes of tracking, monitoring, analyzing and sharing intelligence in relation to trends and offenders with their policing partners through a number of mechanisms.
- Although the number of reported sexual assaults has risen in the past two years, Transit Police believe that this is due to rise in reporting rather than an increase in incidents.
- The Transit Police have introduced tools and new opportunities for people to report sexual offences.

- Some of the actions that the Transit Police have undertaken to reduce sexual assaults and increase reporting include:
  - Outreach to community groups, schools and colleges;
  - Presentations at events, public displays, new Transit Employee orientation and training sessions;
  - Promotion of the 'On Duty' App and Transit Police SMS/Text line (which provides an opportunity for people to discreetly report offending or suspicious behaviour);
  - Weekly reviews and proactive monitoring of individuals considered to present high risk; and
  - Deployment of plainclothes officers on the system.
- The Transit Police have also partnered with Hollaback (Vancouver) in a Transit Tuesday campaign to encourage reporting and provide transit users with tools to help them intervene if they witness harassment.
- Additionally, Transit Police Chief Doug LePard is currently developing additional strategies to enhance the response to sexual offending on the transit system, including working with TransLink on a public education campaign.

**Recommended Response:**

- The safety and security of people using transit services is a key priority for the province
- I know that that TransLink and the Transit Police are committed to ensuring the safety of the public at all rapid transit stations and on all forms of transit, and appreciate that work that you are doing in this regard
- As I have communicated to you, I am disturbed by the increasing number of sexual assaults being reported on TransLink's system.
- I appreciate that the Transit Police have made significant efforts to improve opportunities for people to report assaults, and that this may be contributing to the rise in numbers.
- As the Minister responsible for TransLink, however, it is my expectation that TransLink and the Transit Police do everything they can to stop sexual assaults on the transit system.
- I expect that if the current efforts are not leading to a meaningful reduction in assaults, that additional actions will be considered and implemented immediately.

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Last update:02/12/2016 - Garriock, Tamara CSCD:EX

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER**

Ref: 168443

**FOR DECISION**

**Date:** September 14, 2016

**Title:** Request for Funding Assistance – Sport Branch Major Events Fund

**Issue:** The Ministry has received funding requests from two national sport organizations (Luge Canada and Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton) to host World Cup competitions in Whistler in December 2016.

**Background:** The Ministry has consistently supported the hosting of bobsleigh, skeleton and luge events at the Whistler Sliding Centre since the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The winter of 2016 marks the first time that World Cup events will be hosted on consecutive weekends in an attempt to increase community engagement and enhance the marketability of the facility and sliding sport events.

**1) Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Cup (Nov. /Dec. 2016)**

The World Cup is an excellent training and competition opportunity for Canadian athletes. Canada has many world-class athletes in these disciplines and training and competing in Whistler is of greater value to them than in Calgary where the course is less challenging. The event will also help provide organizers with the necessary training and operational experience to host the World Championships in 2019.

The Province has supported prior World Cups in 2010, 2011 and January 2016. The Province has also provided over \$9 million to the Whistler Sport Legacy Society to maintain operations at the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy facilities (including the Sliding Centre) from 2010 through to the spring of 2014.

**Funding of \$50,000 is recommended.**

**2) Luge World Cup (Dec. 2016)**

Supporting the event would be consistent with the significant investment the Province has made in the Whistler Sport Legacy Society and Whistler Sliding Centre. Previous World Cups have attracted 150-250 participants and millions of television viewers in Europe and South- East Asia. Luge Canada plans to host future events in Whistler in 2018 and 2019.

**Funding of \$50,000 is recommended.**

**Mandate Considerations:** Major sport events create economic, tourism, sport and community development benefits. Events attract visitors to British Columbia and can also develop hosting and volunteer capacity at the local level as well as boosting community pride and cohesion.

**Liquefied Natural Gas Considerations:** n/a

**Fiscal Considerations:** Staff recommends funding support of \$100,000 which could be paid within the current 2016/17 hosting allocation, [s.13,s.17](#)

**First Nations Considerations:** n/a

**Communications:** The Province has been a long-term supporter of programs and special events that promote tourism and employment.



**Key Messages:**

- This event is aligned with the objectives of the Sport, Arts and Culture hosting program – a commitment to supporting communities in making B.C. the destination of choice for event hosting.
- Government supports events that leverage provincial infrastructure investments.
- This grant helps promote community development and increases regional event hosting capacity.

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The funding recommendation is consistent with recent CSCD awards for events at the Whistler Sliding Centre and would contribute to the financial viability of both World Cups. Without significant financial support future events could be shifted to Calgary.

2016 World Cups	Request	Recommended Amount	Summary/Comments
1) Bobsleigh/Skeleton (Whistler)	s.13,s.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$50,000 for each event.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features 100-250 participants per event.</li> </ul>
2) Luge (Whistler)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See attached analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s.13,s.17</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

**Options:**

1. **Provide \$50,000 for each event (total of \$100,000).**
2. Fund at an alternative level, or not at all.

**Recommendation: Option #1.**

Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister

Date:


Approved / ~~Not Approved~~~~September 15, 2016~~

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