

Second Follow-up to the Financial Management Audit - Atlantic Region

November 2004



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Report Clearance Steps

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| Follow-up process initiated | May 2004 |
| Report completed | August 2004 |
| Follow-up report approved by Departmental Audit and Evaluation Committee | November 4, 2004 |

Acronyms used in the report

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| AEB | Audit and Evaluation Branch |
| DAEC | Departmental Audit and Evaluation Committee |
| MSB | Management Services Branch Environment Canada |
| RMC | Regional Management Committee |

New Follow-up Process

As of the May 23, 2003, meeting of the Departmental Audit and Evaluation Committee (DAEC), a new approach to follow-ups is being taken. While the practice in the past had been for the Audit and Evaluation Branch (AEB) to conduct them, it is now the responsibility of the relevant program managers to conduct follow-ups to recommendations and proposed action plan resulting from audits or evaluations of their own programs. This information is provided in a table format presented in Appendix 1 of this report. The information provided by program managers has been reviewed by the AEB and a brief context is provided below.

Context

The initial audit made 9 recommendations and DAEC approved the report on December 15, 1999. The first follow-up was approved by DAEC on May 2003. The first follow-up concluded that all recommendations were addressed except recommendations #8 and #9, both dealing with official languages as follows:

- #8) ensure that the Management Services Branch capacity with respect to the Official Languages requirements is maintained; and
- #9) Regional Management Committee members, with the support of the Human Resources Branch, should ensure that the Inside Lane is available in both official languages.

The report then recommended that AEB conduct a second follow-up in one year specifically with respect to recommendations # 8 and # 9.

Current Status

Since the initial audit, the Atlantic Region has taken several steps to implement the agreed upon action plan. Subsequent to the first follow-up, the Management Services Branch (Atlantic) had proposed an action plan to respond specifically to the two official languages recommendations.

This second follow-up was conducted to ensure that mitigating steps have been taken mitigate the weaknesses observed in the first follow-up. Information provided by regional management indicates that the Accounting unit has hired a bilingual Accounts Payable Clerk, two Senior Financial Officers have completed French language training, and another Financial Officer is scheduled to start French language training in September 2004.

As for the availability of the Inside Lane in both official languages, based on documentation provided by the region and follow-up conversation with a senior regional officer, it has been confirmed that currently the Inside Lane is presented in both official languages and its maintenance is an ongoing activity.

Based on information provided by regional management, AEB is of the opinion that no additional follow-up is required.

Future Actions

Not applicable.