

NEWS RELEASE

March 9, 2021

Auditor General issues annual report card on post-secondary institutions

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada ... Tabled in the Alberta Legislature on March 9, 2021, the *Report on Post-secondary Institutions 2020* compiles the status of recommendations from the 2020 financial statement audits of the post-secondary institutions. It also includes a report card on each institution's financial reporting processes and internal controls with comparative assessment from the 2018 and 2019 audits.

In 2020, Auditor General Doug Wylie issued unqualified or “clean” audit opinions on the financial statements of 20 post-secondary institutions noting, “all institutions were able to prepare financial reporting within six weeks subsequent to year-end despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Four institutions implemented the following outstanding recommendations:

- **Keyano College** improved its financial reporting processes
- **MacEwan University** strengthened controls supporting key financial and business processes
- **Southern Alberta Institute of Technology** improved its network user access controls
- The **University of Calgary** improved its internal control program to mitigate key financial risks

“We were pleased to see these four recommendations had been implemented,” said Wylie. “Strong, sustainable processes improve management’s decision-making ability, and provides the board of governors for each institution the information it requires to exercise proper oversight.”

The report includes three new recommendations to:

- **NorQuest College** to implement consistent cloud computing processes related to data security and monitoring of cloud providers’ controls
- **Medicine Hat College** to improve its purchasing processes
- **Olds College** to improve its financial reporting processes

This is the 10th year the Auditor General has presented a report on post-secondary institutions summarizing the accuracy and timeliness of the preparation of the financial statements, and the status of outstanding recommendations.

The *Report on Post-secondary Institutions 2020* is available at www.oag.ab.ca.

Appointed under Alberta's Auditor General Act, the Auditor General is the legislated auditor of every provincial ministry, department, public post-secondary institution, and most provincial agencies, boards, commissions, and regulated funds. The audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor General report on how government is managing its responsibilities and the province's resources. Through our audit reports, we provide independent assurance to the 87 Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and the people of Alberta, that public money is spent properly and provides value.

– 30 –

For more information, please contact:

Val Mellesmoen, Executive Director, Stakeholder Engagement

Telephone: 780.644.4806 | Mobile: 780.909.5841 | Email: vmellesmoen@oag.ab.ca

Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and on Twitter @AuditorGenAB