



Annual General Meeting – July 6, 2021

Report from the Finance and Audit Committee (2020-21)

The Finance and Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its governance responsibilities by ensuring the efficient and effective use of Nova Scotia Health financial resources and overseeing the internal and external audit processes and accounting practices. The committee reviews and makes recommendations on policies, programs and information related to business planning, financial reporting, risk management and internal controls to ensure an efficient, effective and sustainable health authority.

The Committee focuses on the development and monitoring of health services business plans, including but not limited to multi-year strategic business plans and annual operating and capital budget plans, Nova Scotia Health's enterprise wide risk management plan and processes relating to finance, infrastructure and IT risk. The committee also oversees:

- investment management
- public and government financial reporting as may be required or advisable
- external audit and audited financial statements as well as special engagements of the Office of the Auditor General
- the annual appointment of the external auditor to the Board
- the systems of financial management internal controls
- internal audit processes, services, and progress on recommendations
- any other matters that may have a material impact on the financial or infrastructure issues of Nova Scotia Health

In the past year, the Finance and Audit Committee:

- Oversaw the development of Nova Scotia Health's 2021-22 Quality and Sustainability Plan (Business Plan)
- Oversaw the capital budgeting process, including both capital and IT infrastructure
- Monitored and reviewed financial status reports during the year, and guided the development of financial strategies for approval of the Board
- Provided governance oversight and support of the development and implementation of the *transform and reset* initiative aimed at establishing great accountability for budgets, identifying opportunities for optimization of revenue, creating value while lowering the reliance on government funding

- Monitored financial Key Performance Indicators
- Oversaw the Enterprise Risk Management financial and infrastructure risk process in tandem with the Quality Improvement and Safety Committee
- Approved and oversaw the implementation of financial policies and processes
- Oversaw the work of the Investment Sub Committee
- Monitored regulatory compliance through the compliance reporting process
- Participated in an in-depth education session to deepen their understanding and knowledge of Internal Audit's mandate, and the committee's responsibility and mandate for internal controls over financial reporting
- Reviewed and monitored the status and development of internal business controls
- Monitored progress on previous OAG and Internal Audit recommendations
- Stewarded the relationship between Nova Scotia Health and audit partner, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), and appointed the OAG as auditors for 2020-21

Committee Membership during 2020-21:

Paul Comeau (Chair), Ed MacDonald, Elaine Sibson (non-director committee member, voting) Susan Spence, Janice Stairs, Frank van Schaayk (Board Chair, ex-officio, voting), Dr. Brendan Carr (President & CEO, ex-officio, non-voting), Derek Spinney (VP/ CFO, non-voting)

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Comeau, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee