

Ministry of Finance Office of the Comptroller General

## **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

Date: July 22, 2013

File No.: 026113

From: Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Medical Services Plan Billing Issue - Closure of File

### Introduction

In October 2011, the Audit and Investigations Branch, Ministry of Health (the ministry) informed the Investigation and Forensic Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General of an ongoing investigation involving a former provincial government employee who had received reimbursement for medical services through Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) that subsequently were determined to be 'suspect'.

The IU agreed to update the Comptroller General upon completion of the ministry's internal investigation.

## Background

In 2010, a provincial government employee submitted an out-of-country medical service claim to PBC for medical services

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PBC paid the individual's claim and was subsequently reimbursed by Health Insurance BC (HIBC) for the provincial portion of the claim s22

The individual subsequently left the provincial government for employment with the

In 2011, s22 employee, the individual submitted another out-of-country medical service claim to the s22 health insurance provider for medical services allegedly received in June 2011.

The s22 health insurance provider denied the claim based on evidence that determined the individual had submitted a fraudulent claim. Specifically, they determined that

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Page 1

The s22 health insurance provider promptly notified HIBC of this former Province of BC employee's fraudulent claim, for follow up of s22 2010 claim.

Accordingly, HIBC made an additional request of the former employee for documentation to support \$22 2010 medical claim, but did not receive the requested information, and retroactively denied \$22 2010 claim. HIBC then sought and received recovery from PBC for the full amount of the 2010 reimbursement

#### Conclusion

Despite the fact the ministry had unwittingly reimbursed the former provincial government employee for a fraudulent medical services claim in 2010, it took the appropriate action to fully recover the monies once the federal government advised the ministry of the results of a 2011 investigation involving their former employee.

## Action Taken by Ministry to Mitigate Future Risk

The ministry has taken action to limit any future losses

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## **Ministry Update**

We are advised that neither the individual s22 have submitted any medical services claims, out-of-country or otherwise, subsequent to this investigation. It was determined that further punitive actions would not be practical or cost effective.

If you require additional information or clarification on any areas in this report, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Jim Bulmer at (250) 387-5105.

for Dan Peck

Director, Investigation & Forensic Unit
Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

# **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance Date: August 9, 2013

File No.: 034071

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Review of Employee's Travel and Accommodation Expenses

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Pages 4 through 12 redacted for the following reasons: s15



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

## **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Stuart Newton

July 30, 2013

Comptroller General

File No.: 039233

Ministry of Finance

Ref No.: 265930

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Child Care Service Provider Investigation – Ministry of Children and Family

Development - File Closure

#### Introduction

In June 2011, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the ministry) informed the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General (OCG) of potentially fraudulent activities involving a child care service provider operating under the Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF), as well as concerns regarding the potential involvement of a ministry employee.

Prior to contacting the OCG, the ministry was advised by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) that the RCMP had begun an investigation of this matter. The ministry immediately sought the IU's assistance in gathering evidence to support the RCMP's investigation.

In early July 2011, the IU met with ministry officials to coordinate efforts in the evidence collection and analysis process.

## Background

The CCOF Program provides eligible licensed child care providers with operational funding to assist with the cost of providing child care. Funding amounts are based on monthly enrolment numbers at each facility as submitted by the service provider. To be eligible for funding, the facility must hold a valid Community Care and Assisted Living Licence. The licences are administered through the respective Health Authorities and enforced by licensing officers who perform facility inspections.

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#### **Purpose**

The IU conducted the necessary investigative procedures which included a review of relevant documentation and records, as well as the emails and LAN drive of a ministry employee, to assist the ministry in providing appropriate evidence to support the RCMP's investigation of this matter.

### Approach

We conducted the following steps:

- reviewed the service provider's lease agreements, facility licenses, facility inspection documents and other related records;
- reviewed service provider billings, ministry financial analyses, and other related financial records;
- analyzed relevant emails and the LAN drive of the ministry employee with clerical responsibilities for the service provider's account;
- consulted with ministry CCOF administration staff, ministry Verification and Audit staff and the RCMP; and
- examined any other relevant information and documentation, as determined necessary.

#### Conclusion

The ministry took prompt action to respond to this matter once it was contacted by the VIHA and advised of the financial irregularities under investigation by the RCMP.

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#### **Status**

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## **Ministry Response**

The ministry took the following actions:

- immediately suspended further payments to the child care service provider;
- conducted a joint internal investigation, with the Public Service Agency, of the ministry clerk responsible for clerical duties on the service provider's account;
- contacted the RCMP and the Investigation Unit, Office of the Comptroller General;
- worked closely with the RCMP to collect and provide key evidence;
- provided fraud training to CCOF program staff in September 2012;
- updated policies and procedures within CCOF program; and
- began efforts to seek a Restitution Order from the courts in order to recover the government's substantial loss.

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If you require additional information or clarification on any areas in this report, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Jim Bulmer at (250), 387-5105.

for Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

pc: Anne Sandbu

Assistant Deputy Minister Finance and Corporate Services Ministry of Children and Family Development

Anne Minnings Chief Financial Officer Ministry of Children and Family Development

Arif Lalani
Executive Director
Provincial Services
Ministry of Children and Family Development



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

# **MEMORANDUM**

Date: July 29, 2013

File No.: 039234

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Investigation of Post Adoption Assistance Program Incident

Pages 18 through 19 redacted for the following reasons: s15

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We would also be pleased to provide the ministry and other officials with additional information, including the detailed support for our conclusion, as requested.

If you require additional information or clarification on any areas in this report, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Stacy Johnson at (250) 356-7863.

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Stocy Johnson

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

pc: Anne Sandbu

Assistant Deputy Minister Finance & Corporate Services Ministry of Children and Family Development

Anne Minnings Chief Financial Officer Ministry of Children and Family Development

Thomas Weber
Executive Director of Service
North/Central Vancouver Island Region & Community Services – KSA
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Anne Clayton
Provincial Director of Adoption
Ministry of Children and Family Development



Ministry of **Finance** 

Office of the Comptroller General

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2013

File No.: 039240

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Review of Vendor Overbilling - Autism Funding Unit, Ministry of Children and

Family Development - File Closure

#### Introduction

In April 2012, the Director of Accounting Operations, Financial Practice and Controls, Ministry of Children and Family Development (the ministry) advised the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General of an internal review which was underway that involved suspected overbillings by a ministry vendor who provided services to the Autism Funding Unit (AFU).

The IU requested specific information, including the results and actions taken, for the purpose of providing a formal update to the Comptroller General.

## Background

In February 2012, a ministry case worker suspected that a service provider was involved in submitting false billings related to services provided for a family's s22 autistic children.

The case worker immediately contacted the service provider and the parents of the autistic children to obtain further information. The vendor provided the case worker with a written response to the case worker's request for additional information, and the parents provided copies of the vendor's invoices.

## Summary of the Ministry's Review

The ministry obtained the materials provided by the case worker and conducted additional procedures including, but not limited to:

Review of the vendor's response to the case worker;

•	Comparison of vendor invoices provided by the parent to the invoices submitted to the AFU, to identify any anomalies;
	Interviews of the service provider; and
•	Contacted all other parents s22 of autistic children that had received services from the same vendor, to possibly identify other invoice irregularities.

## **Summary of Ministry's Findings**

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parents responded that they did not encounter any irregularities with their invoices. However s22 of the parents did not reply to the ministry's request.

#### Conclusion

We are encouraged by the ministry's efforts to investigate and resolve this issue.

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## Summary of Actions Taken by Ministry to Mitigate Risk

We noted the ministry has strengthened controls over vendor billings by:

- requiring that the Executive Director, AFU review and approve all of this vendor's invoices before they are submitted for payment; and
- conducting random client confirmations of vendor billings.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Jim Bulmer at (250) 387-5105.

for

Stew Johnson
Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

pc: Anne Sandbu
Assistant Deputy Minister
Finance and Corporate Services
Ministry of Children and Family Development

Anne Minnings Chief Financial Officer Ministry of Children and Family Development

Arif Lalani
Executive Director
Provincial Services
Ministry of Children and Family Development



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 9, 2013 File No.: 039245

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Subject: Review of

Aboriginal Services Office - File Closure

#### Introduction

In January 2013, the Investigations and Forensics Unit, Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Ministry of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services, advised the Investigation and Forensic Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General (OCG) of an incident under review by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the ministry).

The matter involved allegations of provincial monies being misappropriated by an employee in the ministry's Aboriginal Services Office (the office) located in

s22

The IU requested specific information from the ministry to assess their handling of the incident, as part of the IU's monitoring and reporting role within the OCG.

## Background

office came forward and advised the In January 2013, employees in the s22 ministry of concerns involving certain financial practices and activities of the office's

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The employees alleged that the

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These monies represented surplus or unused funds that had been provided to certain agencies under the terms of Transfer Under Agreements (TUAs). Agencies are required to remit unused funds at the expiration of the TUA for deposit to the CRF.

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### Ministry's Approach

In February 2013, the ministry conducted a review of the incident. The review was led by the ministry's Director, Accounting Operations, Financial Practice and Controls. The ministry's Community Services Manager s22 assisted in the review. The team performed the following steps:

- Gathered and examined relevant financial records and documents;
- Interviewed s22 office staff;
- Examined email stores provided by the OCIO; and
- Presented the review's findings to the ministry's executive in March 2013.

### **Summary of Ministry's Findings**

The ministry's review team determined that the s22 was directly responsible for s22 within the office, representing surplus funds from two agencies, rather than transfer such monies to the government's CRF, as required by government policy.

The review team further determined how the majority of the money was used and located approximately s22

With respect to the s22 the team determined:

- s22 was used for conference events and potlucks. Such activities would have ordinarily been approved under the terms of the TUAs, had the agreements not expired;
- was used to purchase gift cards s22

s22

- s22 was used to secure the future services of a contractor by pre-paying for such services; and
- s22 was used to make donations for two Aboriginal Day Celebrations.

The review team could not locate any receipts with respect to the s22 gift card and s22 in food gift cards described above. Further, the team noted that all s22 office staff had access to these gift cards, as the cards were not stored in a secure location.

Although the review team confirmed that the former employee's actions were intentional and contrary to ministry and provincial government policies, they could not confirm that the former employee, or any government employee, personally benefited through these non-compliant activities.

With respect to the s22 such monies were returned for deposit to the CRF, as required by government policy.

### Additional Matters Identified by the Review Team

While conducting the review of the original allegations, the review team learned that the office had received several donations from an Aboriginal Society since 2007, totalling see Such donations were in the form of gift cards for various potluck dinners and other events.

The review team secured \$22 in gift cards but was unable to determine how the remaining \$22 was used. Access to the gift cards was available to all \$22 office staff, as the cards were not stored in a secure location. Further, the office did not maintain a record of their usage which would include receipts and identification of the users.

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#### Conclusion

The ministry took prompt and appropriate action to investigate the allegations involving suspected financial improprieties involving the s22 Specifically, the ministry assigned the review to the appropriate staff and advised the OCG through the OCIO.

Further, the ministry recovered approximately s22 and secured s22 in gift cards.

Although the review team identified significant non-compliance with ministry and government policies, they were not able to determine whether any employee personally benefited from the non-compliant activities.

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## Actions Taken by Ministry

The ministry took the following actions after their internal review:

 Upon consultation with the Public Service Agency, the ministry placed disciplinary letters on the personnel files of relevant employees s22

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- Instructed the office staff to comply with ministry and government policies s22 and procedures, and advised them of their obligation to report any non-compliance, whether suspected or actual:
- Deposited the recovered monies s22 to the CRF; and
- Implemented controls with respect to the custody and usage of both gift cards and gift inventory.

If you require additional information or clarification on any areas in this report, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Jim Bulmer at (250) 387-5105.

Cor Dan Peck

Stacy Juman

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

Anne Sandbu DC: Assistant Deputy Minister Finance and Corporate Services Ministry of Children and Family Development

> Anne Minnings Chief Financial Officer Ministry of Children and Family Development

> Beverly Dicks Assistant Deputy Minister Service Delivery Ministry of Children and Family Development

> Barry Fulton Executive Director of Service Ministry of Children and Family Development



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 22, 2013

File No.: 050136

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Employee Corporate Card and Travel Expense Review - Ministry of Forests,

Lands and Natural Resource Operations – File Closure

#### Introduction

In November 2011, the Financial Services Branch (FSB), Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (the ministry) notified the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General (OCG) of an ongoing internal investigation involving a specific Ministry of Environment employee. Specifically, the Financial Policy, Compliance, & Procurement Unit were investigating concerns involving the employee's corporate card use and expense reimbursements.

As part of its monitoring role within the Comptroller General's mandate, the IU agreed to review the FSB's handling of the incident and provide assistance, as necessary.

## Background

The Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment, works to prevent pollution, as well as promote continuous improvement in air, land and water quality through data collection and support for professionals in the environmental information management sector. s22

Earlier in the year s22 Corporate Compliance and Controls Monitoring Branch (3CMB), OCG had also identified similar concerns with s22

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FSB agreed to review the employee's iExpense reimbursement claims, corporate card and Business Travel Account (BTA) transactions. FSB's review identified several irregularities and determined it was necessary to interview the employee to obtain further information. Accordingly, FSB requested the IU's assistance with the interview of the employee. As requested, IU subsequently interviewed the employee in the presence of a Public Service Agency (PSA) representative.

#### Conclusion

The ministry, led by the FSB, took prompt and appropriate actions to investigate the concerns brought forward by the employee's supervisor. Such actions included requesting the assistance of the IU, OCG and involvement of the PSA.

s22

FSB's review, corroborated by our interview of the individual, identified the following:

• s22 iExpense claims were routinely submitted without adequate supporting documentation.

Specifically, for the period s22 there were s22 occasions where receipts were missing, totalling approximately s22 The majority of the missing receipts s22 related to airline travel.

Although we noted that s22 iExpense claims were all approved, it is our opinion that such approval was executed without the proper care and attention required of the respective expense authorities.

- s22 used the government travel card for personal cash advances while not on travel status s22 contrary to government policy as prescribed by the Purchasing Card guidelines.
- s22 routinely used s22 personal credit card to purchase airline travel, contrary to government policy which requires the use of a BTA for such purposes. As noted above in the report, this is of particular concern to the lack of supporting documentation provided by the employee for these expenditures.

- Despite a detailed examination of purchases using the s22 government purchasing card it was not possible to determine whether any of these purchases related to non-government business.
  - the employee was routinely 922 required to purchase equipment and supplies to carry out s22 duties. However, it was not possible to confirm these purchases due to missing documentation such as: receipts; signature of a qualified receiver; and most notably the lack of any system, formal or otherwise, that tracks the acquisition and locations of assets acquired by the

### Ministry Response

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 In October 2012, the Financial Services Branch provided financial management training (e.g. purchasing card and travel procedures) s22

The Financial Services Branch will be conducting a follow up review of the Knowledge Management Branch in the fall of 2013.

The Investigation Unit has concluded its monitoring and assistance on this matter.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Stacy Johnson at (250) 356-7863.

Story James

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

## MEMORANDUM

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

Date: July 29, 2013 File No.: 050140

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Bluebird Cab Card Misuse - Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and

Reconciliations - File Closure

#### Introduction

In July 2012, the Financial Services Branch (FSB), Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (the ministry) advised the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General of an incident involving a Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliations employee's cab card usage.

The IU requested specific information, including the results and actions taken, for the purpose of updating the Comptroller General.

## Background

Provincial offices within the Victoria area maintain government credit card accounts with Blue Bird Cabs Ltd. These accounts permit employees to direct bill taxi costs while on government business using a cab card.

Government offices are responsible for implementing internal controls related to the custody of the cab cards to ensure their use is authorized and the billings are accurate.

The ministry advised FSB of their concerns involving an employee allegedly using a cab card for personal use; s22

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FSB agreed to review the matter and report their findings to the ministry, as well as the Office of the Comptroller General.

### Conclusion

FSB's investigation confirmed the ministry's suspicions and determined that the employee was using the government cab card for personal use, contrary to government policy.

FSB conducted additional steps to determine whether this was a systemic issue or isolated occurrence, and concluded it was most likely isolated to this one individual.

### **Actions Taken by Ministry**

The ministry determined the amount due to the province for the employee's inappropriate government cab card usage, and promptly recovered the monies from the employee.

Further, the individual is now required to request a cab card from the card custodian and promptly return the card following its legitimate business use.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at (250) 387-8542 or Stacy Johnson at (250) 356-7863.

for

Dan Peck

Story Johnson

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

## **MEMORANDUM**

Date: July 26, 2013

File No.: 050143

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Tree Improvement Branch Investigation Monitored by the Investigation and

Forensic Unit - Closure of File

#### Introduction

In November 2012, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (the ministry) advised the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General (OCG), of an internal investigation involving the ministry's Tree Improvement Branch (TIB). Specifically, TIB management and the Public Service Agency (PSA) began a labour relations investigation into allegations of inappropriate employee behaviour

The scope of the investigation expanded as suspicions of financial improprieties arose.

The IU agreed to monitor the ministry's internal investigation of the financial concerns and report the results to the Comptroller General.

## Background

TIB's mandate is to protect, manage and conserve British Columbia's forest genetic resources by providing various services including cone and seed services, research, tree breeding, decision support and client services. These services are provided in various locations such as seed orchards, research centers, and tree seed facilities.

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In s22 the ministry received two separate complaints of inappropriate employee behavior within the s22 During the investigation of this location, s22 employees brought forward allegations of financial improprieties s22 PSA agreed to assist the ministry with this part of the investigation, which was finalized in October 2012.

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This investigation led to additional financial concerns involving the inappropriate use of government purchasing cards and a possible conflict of interest s22. As a result, s22 requested an independent investigation to resolve the remaining issues.

At this time, the ministry CFO contacted the OCG for guidance and advice.

The OCG agreed that the ministry's Financial Policy, Compliance & Procurement Branch (FPCP) would conduct the investigation of these additional matters, and the IU would offer assistance as part of its monitoring role.

The financial transactions of the following s22 employees were scrutinized:

s22

In addition, FPCP determined it necessary to examine s22 involvement, if any, in the financial transactions subjected to scrutiny.

### Conclusion

This was a complicated investigation that involved the collaboration of ministry management, the PSA and the ministry's Financial Policy, Compliance and Procurement Branch.

We appreciate that the ministry reported this incident to the OCG immediately upon suspecting the financial improprieties involving the \$22

The investigation team's conclusions are summarized below. For ease of review, we have listed the issues by employee.

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# **Actions Taken by the Ministry**

The ministry received Deputy Ministry approval to

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• The ministry took the necessary and appropriate disciplinary action against those s22 staff that were identified as having conducted themselves in a manner contrary to the standards of conduct and expectations entrusted upon them.

For example:

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 The Investigation Team provided ministry management with detailed recommendations for financial and management control improvements.
 Such improvements, when fully implemented are intended to dramatically reduce the likelihood of recurrence of similar incidents with the s22

The Investigation Team also provided ministry management with a detailed action plan for \$22 in order to assist the ministry in monitoring implementation of the recommendations.

 FPCP has just completed its first quarter review of TIB and is encouraged by progress being made with respect to the action plan.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at (250) 387-8542, or Stacy Johnson at (250) 356-7863.

for

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

### pc: Trish Dohan

A/Assistant Deputy Minister/Executive Financial Officer Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

#### Terry Gelinas

Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

#### Diane Ross

Director, Financial Policy, Compliance, & Procurement Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Sector Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations



Ministry of Finance

Office of the Comptroller General

# **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Stuart Newton

Comptroller General Ministry of Finance

Date: August 14, 2013

File No.: 100018

From:

Dan Peck

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

Ministry of Finance

Subject: Pacific Blue Cross Investigation - False Medical Claims - File Closure

#### Introduction

In December 2011, the Total Compensation and Benefits Branch, Pubic Service Agency (PSA) advised the Investigation Unit (IU), Office of the Comptroller General, of a Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) investigation involving several provincial government employees and two private sector vendors.

The investigation examined false medical claims made by government employees that also involved two medical supply retailers operating in the lower mainland.

PSA agreed to provide regular updates to the IU as part of its monitoring and reporting role to the Comptroller General.

## **Background**

The province retains PBC to administer the BC Public Service health insurance plan (extended health and dental plan). The administrative services include the adjudication of medical expense claims as well as providing the necessary assistance in the investigation and reporting of suspected improprieties.

Under this arrangement, the province (the employer) pays actual cost of medical claims submitted by employees. In addition, the province incurs financial losses resulting from inappropriate claims submitted by employees that went undetected through the adjudication process.

In 2009, the Canadian Health Care Anti-fraud Association alerted PBC of two tips that it received through its whistleblower hot line alleging that two vendors were involved in a false billing scheme.

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PBC immediately began its investigation which included hiring a private investigation firm to conduct an undercover review of the vendors.

#### Conclusion

This was a complicated investigation that involved the collaboration of several parties, primarily PBC and PSA.

Immediately upon being notified of the allegations, PSA advised the IU of suspected financial improprieties involving several provincial government employees and the private sector.

During the investigation PBC identified concerns involving two additional government employees involved in a separate billing scheme.

In total, PBC identified false claims through both schemes totaling s22

With respect to the original investigation involving several government employees and the private sector:

- PBC reviewed s22 claims involving these vendors and confirmed that s22 employees submitted false claims totaling s22 as follows:
  - ➤ A Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen Services employee submitted false claims totalling s22
  - > A Ministry of Energy and Mines employee submitted false claims totalling s22
  - > A Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employee submitted false claims totalling s22 and
  - > A Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training employee submitted false claims totalling s22

With respect to the two additional employees identified by PBC to be involved in a separate fraud scheme:

• PBC determined that they had submitted false claims totaling approximately and immediately advised the PSA.

While these claims did not involve the two vendors referred to above, in both cases these government employees were reimbursed for services that were never provided, as follows:

	> A Ministry of Health employee was reimbursed approximately \$22	
	A former Ministry of Ministry of Jobs, Tourism. and Skills Training employee submitted a claim of approximately \$22	
Actions Taken by Ministries		
Wi	th PSA's assistance and advice, the ministries took the actions described below.	
	th respect to the original investigation involving the four provincial government ployees and two vendors:	
•	The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen Services employee was sut has not recovered any of the monies owed such from the former employee;	
•	The Ministry of Energy and Mines employee s22 and the ministry recovered the full amount owed s22 from the former employee;	
•	The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure employee s22	
	s22 and repaying s22 the full amount owed; and	
•	The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training employee s22 and the ministry recovered the full amount owed s22 from the former employee.	
	th respect to the two additional employees that were identified as having been mbursed for \$\text{s22}\$	
•	The Ministry of Health employee s22 but the ministry has not recovered any of the monies owed the province s22 s22	
•	The Ministry of Jobs. Tourism. and Skills Training employee s22 and repaying the full amount owed s22 s15	
	s15	
Wi	th respect to the two medical supply vendors:	

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With respect to a risk mitigation strategy:

 PSA and PBC re-examined the existing contractual arrangement and have identified certain control improvements designed to mitigate the province's exposure to health insurance fraud in this area.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at (250) 387-8542, or Stacy Johnson at (250) 356-7863.

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Dan Peck

Story Jamoon

Director, Investigation and Forensic Office of the Comptroller General

pc: Lynda Tarras
Head of BC Public Service Agency
Public Service Agency

Deborah Fayad Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer Public Service Agency

Dean Skinner
Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director
Public Service Agency