



OFFICE OF THE
Auditor General
of British Columbia

8 Bastion Square
Victoria, British Columbia
Canada V8V 1X4
Telephone: 250 387-6803
Facsimile: 250 387-1230
Website: <http://bcauditor.com>

March 24, 2006

Mr. David Schreck
145 East Windsor Road
North Vancouver, British Columbia
V7N 1J9

Dear Mr. Schreck,

I am replying to your faxed letter of March 22, 2006 in which you raise a question about a specific aspect of our work related to my most recent report *Managing PharmaCare: Slow Progress Toward Cost-Effective Drug Use and a Sustainable Program*.

The information on page 64 is directed at highlighting the lack of comprehensive reporting on the part of the ministry for the PharmaCare program. The examples cited are meant only to point out what was included regarding PharmaCare in the 2003/04 Annual Report. My team did not examine the 'preliminary evaluations' of Fair PharmaCare referred to by the ministry as our focus was not on the report per se but rather the over all lack of accountability on the part of the ministry for the PharmaCare program. In our report, we recommended the ministry improve its reporting on the performance of the Pharmacare program.

On pages 21 and 22, we note that a number of evaluations are underway, including the one related to Fair PharmaCare, and that not all results have been published. As the Fair PharmaCare Plan represents the largest single component of the PharmaCare program, we would expect particular attention by the ministry to reporting on its performance.

In the ministry's response, it undertakes to release an Annual Report on PharmaCare in the spring of 2006. This would be an appropriate vehicle whereby the ministry could enlighten the public about the extent to which any negative impacts of Fair PharmaCare have actually occurred.

Page 2
March 24, 2006
Mr. David Schreck

As you are probably aware my Office is doing a substantial amount of work in the area of the annual service plans and reports produced by ministries and crown agencies, focusing on the contents concordance with the BC Reporting Principles. Eventually this work will lead to us providing assurance on those reports. We do so now for WorkSafe BC (WCB) and the Public Guardian and Trustee. Thus, in future we hope to be able to address questions about the credibility of findings cited by ministries in their reports on a regular basis.

Thank you for your interest in this report.

Yours truly,



Wayne Strelieff, FCA
Auditor General

copy: Mr. David Cubberley, MLA
Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Health
Dr. Penny Ballem, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health