Northwest Territories

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the *Northwest Territories Act* (Government of Canada), the Government of the Northwest Territories is required to comply with the *Auditor General Act* (Canada). Section 31 of the *Northwest Territories Act* says, "The Auditor General has, in connection with the examination of the accounts of the Territories, all the powers that the Auditor General has under the Auditor General Act in connection with the examination of the accounts of Canada." The *Auditor General Act*, subsection 13 (1), describes these powers as follows: "Except as provided by any other Act of Parliament that expressly refers to this subsection, the Auditor General is entitled to free access at all convenient times to information that relates to the fulfillment of his responsibilities ".

All Government departments and public agencies are subject to the above legislation. Public agencies include any statutory body specified in Schedule A or any territorial corporation specified in Schedule B or C of the *Financial Administration Act* (Northwest Territories).

Territorial corporations are Government corporations established by enactment. They are either self-supporting (e.g., the NWT Power Corporation and the Workers' Compensation Board) or supported by annual Legislative Assembly budget appropriations (e.g., Aurora College, NWT Housing Corporation, NWT Development Corporation, and NWT Business Credit Corporation).

Under subsection 73(e) of the *Financial Administration Act* (*FAA*), the annual Public Accounts of the Government must contain "the report of the Auditor General on the examination of the Auditor General of the accounts and financial transactions of the Government." *FAA* section 96 requires every public agency to prepare and submit for each financial year an annual report to its Minister that includes (among other things) the report of the auditor for the public agency. Section 99 of the *Act* says,

"The auditor of
(a) a territorial corporation shall be the Auditor General or the nominee of the Auditor General; and
(b) a public agency, other than a territorial corporation, must be approved by the appropriate Minister."

2. DEFINTION

2.1 *auditor*

the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, as referred to in the Northwest Territories Act (Government of Canada) and the *Financial Administration Act* (Government of the Northwest Territories), or, in the case of a public agency other than a territorial corporation, the auditor approved by the appropriate Minister

3. DIRECTIVE

In accordance with federal and territorial legislation and the following Provisions, every Government department and public agency shall co-operate fully with the *auditor* and the Government's Comptroller General and shall respond to and act appropriately upon on all observations of the *auditor*.

4. PROVISIONS

4.1 Co-operating fully with the *auditor* includes:

a) providing the *auditor* with free access to all records and information requested or deemed necessary by the *auditor* and any other records and information that would reasonably be considered to be relevant;
b) providing the *auditor* with all explanations requested during the course of audit;
c) responding fully and appropriately in written form, e.g. in response to management letters and the Report to the Legislative Assembly on Any Other Matter; and,
d) taking all appropriate corrective action in relation to audit issues raised.

4.2 Before responding to the *auditor* on a material or significant financial administration issue raised by the *auditor*, an affected department or public agency shall consult with the Comptroller General and advise the Comptroller General of any issue over which there is an actual or potential dispute with the *auditor*.

4.3 The Comptroller General shall coordinate departmental and public agency responses to recommendations of the *auditor* in the Report to the Legislative Assembly on Any Other Matter.