



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Feb. 27, 2014

Auditor General Examines University Governance

VICTORIA — The Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia released two reports today - *University Board Governance Examinations* and *Summary Report: Winter 2014*.

University Board Governance Examinations is the third report in a series on board governance. It examines the board governance practices of three BC universities: the University of Victoria (UVic), Capilano University and Thompson Rivers University (TRU), as well as the Ministry of Advanced Education in providing support for university governance and accountability.

Auditor General Russ Jones commented that “universities make important social and economic contributions to the province. Good board governance is the foundation from which universities can achieve their objectives, allocate resources wisely, and serve the public interest openly and transparently.”

While the Office observed areas for improvement at all three universities, good governance practices were also noted, predominantly in the areas of oversight of risk management and board evaluations.

“These results were encouraging, particularly those from UVic and TRU. TRU is a relatively young university, yet has succeeded in achieving strong governance practices due to recent improvements,” said Jones.

A number of improvements were identified for Capilano University focusing on Board member succession and continuity; elected members’ roles and responsibilities; strategic plan monitoring; and the President’s annual evaluation.

The report also highlights good practices at the Ministry of Advanced Education in its development of annual performance expectations for universities. Recommendations include improving how the Ministry communicates performance expectations to university boards.

The Office of the Auditor General intends to conduct governance examinations of Crown agencies in the future to identify further opportunities for improved governance.

About the Office of the Auditor General of BC:

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and his staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or the OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.



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Feb. 27 Report – University Board Governance Examinations <http://www.bcauditor.com/pubs>

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