



June 29, 2017

Cliff: 359222

To whom it may concern:

The Ombudsperson's investigation into the 2012 Ministry of Health Employment Terminations and Related Matters, ([Ombudsperson Referral Report No. 1, to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia April 2017](#)) contained two recommendations (R12 and R13) requesting that government withdraw the final report of the Office of the Comptroller General's (OCG) Investigation and Forensic Unit. Government has [accepted the Ombudsperson's recommendations](#) and is committed to taking measures that address them.

The Ministry of Finance has withdrawn the OCG Investigation Report, with the acknowledgement that the ministry agrees with the Ombudsperson that the OCG report contains inaccuracies and will not be relied upon. Further, the government has notified all parties who received copies of the report that the Ministry of Finance has withdrawn it and that no reliance should be placed on the report's findings or conclusions. The ministry has asked the parties to confirm the destruction of any copies that may remain in their possession.

The report was the subject of requests under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the responsive records, redacted in accordance with the act, were posted on the Open Information website. All copies of the report in those records have been withdrawn from the website and replaced by this notice.

The Ministry of Finance has sent letters of apology to each of the individuals named in the OCG Report, confirming that the ministry has withdrawn the OCG Report and that it will not affect their ability to work for or with government in the future should they wish to do so.

The OCG Report will remain on file with the Office of Primary Responsibility, which is the OCG, consistent with information retention requirements; it includes annotation that the OCG Report contains inaccuracies and will not be relied on by government. Consistent with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the OCG Report will continue to be subject to access requests, and therefore redaction, including under section 22 (Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy). Government will not proactively release copies of any future access requests for the OCG Report on Open Information. The notice confirming government's withdrawal of the report will also be released in response to any such request.

/2

As noted in the Ombudsperson's report, in 2016 government engaged KPMG to support a thorough practice review of the OCG's Investigation and Forensic Unit, and government has implemented significant improvements as a result. Further action will be taken to ensure all recommendations of the Ombudsperson are fully implemented in a meaningful way to ensure errors of this nature will not occur in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Fischer', is positioned above the typed name.

Carl Fischer, CPA, CGA
A/Comptroller General
Province of British Columbia