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## SUMMARY

December 2012

### **REPORT ON PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

In 2009, the Ministry of Health requested Internal Audit and Advisory Services (IAAS) undertake a review of procurement and contract management practices, mainly for professional services including IM/IT, throughout the ministry to determine whether practices were in compliance with government policy requirements. The review looked at the ministry's contracts with independent consultants active in the 2007/08 fiscal year. In the 2007/08 fiscal year, the ministry had approximately 1,400 active contracts with a total value of over \$800 million.

The Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring quality, appropriate, and timely health services are available to British Columbians. The ministry works with six health authorities, care providers, agencies and other groups to provide access to care. It provides leadership, direction and support to service delivery partners and sets province-wide goals, standards and expectations for health service delivery by health authorities.

The IAAS review found ministry staff consistently applied good procurement and contract management practices. IAAS staff provided a number of suggestions for improvement to the ministry including three broader recommendations of actions to encourage staff to be more compliant with policy, to maintain documented support for procurement and contract management decisions and activities, and to strengthen review and control of procurement and contract documents.

The ministry has accepted and responded to all recommendations in the report.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for British Columbia's health system, with a mandate to guide and enhance the province's health services to ensure British Columbians are supported in their efforts to maintain and improve their health.

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