



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

July 25, 2024

Auditor general announces retirement, returning to Maritimes

VICTORIA – B.C. Auditor General Michael A. Pickup has announced his retirement and is planning to return home to the Maritimes.

Pickup has informed the Speaker of the B.C. Legislature of his intention to retire, in accordance with the *Auditor General Act*, effective Nov. 15, 2024.

Pickup has been auditor general of B.C. for four years, following six years as auditor general of Nova Scotia and a 25-year career with the Auditor General of Canada. "I want to express my thanks to everyone who has supported and worked with me during my time in B.C.," Pickup said.

A chartered professional accountant, Pickup holds a degree in Canadian economics and political science and has done post-graduate work at Western University and the Stanford Graduate School of Business. In 2020, he obtained a certification in Equity Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. He has also been a part-time professor at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

Pickup is Canada's first and only openly gay auditor general and Indigenous auditor general, as a status Indian member of the Miawpukek First Nation. He was also born the second child of teenaged parents, from simple Cape Breton Island beginnings. "I hope I have shown Canadians who are different that, with hard work and collaborative support, one can rise to the most senior public sector positions in Canada," Pickup said.

Pickup noted his pride in the work he has led as auditor general of B.C. and thanked his teams for their hard work and results. With a focus on a healthy workplace and employee well-being, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has seen increased employee engagement and satisfaction reflected in recent independent workplace employee surveys, with increases of 25 per cent in key indicators. "I leave an office that is a model of employee well-being and I thank staff for their commitment to a safe and inclusive workplace," Pickup said.

The OAG has also produced significant output over the past four years, with nearly 40 reports to the Legislative Assembly, a large and diverse financial statement audit portfolio, a new follow-up reporting process on past audits, and modernized communications, including the use of videos, audits-at-a-glance, social media and extensive external engagement. The OAG also updated its physical workspace and put in place well-functioning hybrid work approaches. "Thanks to all staff for their hard work in delivering incredible high-quality output to MLAs and the people of B.C.," Pickup said.

Pickup relocated from Nova Scotia when his appointment began in 2020, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic. He is appreciative of the warm welcome from staff and people across the province during the past four years. "My thanks to those who welcomed me, including business leaders, union and labour groups, Indigenous leaders, the public service and many others," Pickup said. The OAG applied knowledge gained from its outreach activities to inform the selection of audits and other work.



Office of the
Auditor General
of British Columbia

After next week, Pickup will be available until Nov. 15 for interviews. He also thanked the news media for their interest in the work of the OAG.

Pickup will return to the Maritimes to be closer to his large and extended family. "While I end a 35-year legislative audit career, I look forward to continuing to contribute to the public and private sectors in different ways going forward."

For general questions and interview requests:

Nicholas Johnson

Director, Communications

njohnson@bcauditor.com

250-419-6117

[Subscribe to receive report eAlerts.](#)