KPMG

The Regional Municipality of York

Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2022

KPMG LLP

Licensed Public Accountants

Prepared on: April 11, 2023

Presentation on: April 25, 2023

kpmg.ca/audit

KPMG contacts

Key contacts in connection with this engagement

Maria Khoushnood
Lead Audit Engagement Partner
416-228-7082
mkhoushnood@kpmg.ca

Robert Masters
Audit Manager
416-228-7296
rmasters@kpmg.ca

Katie DenBok
Engagement Quality Control Review Partner
519-660-2115
kdenbok@kpmg.ca

Table of contents

The purpose of this report is to assist you, as a member of the Audit Committee, in your review of the results of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended December 31, 2022. This report builds on the Audit Plan we presented to the Audit Committee. This report is intended solely for the information and use of Management, the Audit Committee, and Region Council and should not be used for any other purpose or any other party. KPMG shall have no responsibility or liability for loss or damages or claims, if any, to or by any third party as this report has not been prepared for, and is not intended for, and should not be used by, any third party or for any other purpose.

Digital use information

This Audit Findings Report is also available as a "hyper-linked" PDF document.

If you are reading in electronic form (e.g. In "Adobe Reader" or "Board Books"), clicking on the home symbol on the top right corner will bring you back to this slide.

Click on any item in the table of contents to navigate to that section.

Audit highlights

Status of the audit

We have completed the audit of the consolidated financial statements ("financial statements") , with the exception of certain remaining outstanding procedures, which are highlighted on slide 5 of this report.

Significant changes to our audit plan

There were no significant changes to our audit plan which was originally communicated to you in the audit planning report.

Audit risks and results – significant risks

No matters to report.

Audit risks and results – going concern assessment

No matters to report.

Uncorrected audit misstatements

No matters to report

Corrected audit misstatements

No matters to report.

Significant unusual transactions

No matters to report.

Control deficiencies

We did not identify any control deficiencies that we determined to be significant deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting.

Accounting policies and practices

No matters to report.

Other financial reporting matters

No matters to report.

Status of the audit

As of the date of preparation of this Audit Findings Report, we have completed the audit of the consolidated financial statements, with the exception of certain remaining procedures, which include amongst others:

- Completing our discussions with the Audit Committee

We will update the Audit Committee, on significant matters, if any, arising from the completion of the audit, including the completion of the above procedures.

Our auditor’s report, will be dated upon the completion of <u>any</u> remaining procedures.

KPMG Clara for Clients (KCfc)

Real-time collaboration and transparency

We leveraged **KCfc** to facilitate real-time collaboration with your team and provide visual insights into the status of the audit!

On your audit we used KCfc to coordinate requests from Region employees.

Learn more

Significant risks and results

We highlight our significant findings in respect of **significant risks** as identified in our discussion with you in the Audit Plan, as well as any additional significant risks identified.

Presumption of the risk of fraud involving improper revenue recognition

Significant risk	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
The primary risk of fraudulent revenue recognition resides with manual journal entries for revenue transactions not in the normal course of business, specifically related to management's calculation of the deferred revenue – obligatory reserve funds.	No

Our response and findings

- Our audit methodology incorporated the required procedures in professional standards to address this risk.
- Our audit approach consisted of evaluating the design and implementation of selected relevant controls. We tested journal entries that meet specific criteria. This criteria was designed during the planning phase of the audit and is based on areas and accounts that are susceptible to manipulation through management override. We also designed search filters that allowed us to identify any unusual journal entries.
- As part of our audit approach to address the inherent risk of error in revenue recognition, we substantively tested revenues (both recognized and amounts held as deferred at year end). We also incorporated an element of uncertainty into the journal entries and revenue testing.
- We did not identify any issues related to fraud risk associated with revenue recognition.

Significant risks and results

Management Override of Controls

Significant risk	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
Management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Although the level of risk of management override of controls will vary from entity to entity, the risk nevertheless is present in all entities	No

Our response and findings

- As this risk is not rebuttable, our audit methodology incorporated the required procedures in professional standards to address this risk.
- These procedures included the testing of journal entries and other adjustments, performing a retrospective review of estimates and evaluating the business rationale of significant unusual transaction.
- We did not identify any issues or concerns regarding management override of controls.

Other significant findings and results

We highlight **other significant findings** including such findings in other areas of focus as identified in the Audit Plan as follows:

Revenue and Deferred Revenues Earned

Other significant finding	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
The Region recognizes revenue from different streams including net taxation, user charges, government transfers, development charges, investment income, fees and services, and other. Management follows the revenue recognition policies reported in note 1 to the financial statements to recognize revenue in accordance with PSAS, which includes deferring receipts and contributions if performance obligations are not met.	No

Our response and significant findings

- We substantively tested revenues recognized and amounts held as deferred at year end using sampling techniques and direct confirmation of certain revenues with third parties, including other governments and agencies.
- We reviewed the calculation of deferred revenue continuity prepared by management and ensured the cash receipts and revenue recognized ties to our audited work.
- We tested a sample of cash receipts to supporting agreements and bank records and found no issues in the deferral of these receipts.
- We tested a sample of expended funds to supporting records of the underlying expenditures, noting that the expenditures were related to the purpose for which the contributions were recorded, and found no issues in the recognition of funds as revenue.

Our findings

- The amounts reported for revenue and deferred revenue for obligatory reserve as at year-end are reasonable.
- The note disclosures related to revenue and deferred revenue for obligatory reserves are in accordance with PSAS.

Other findings and results

Employee benefits liability

Other finding	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
In fiscal 2022, the Region engaged Nexus Actuarial Consultants Ltd., an external actuarial consultant (the "Actuary") to undertake an independent actuarial valuation of the Region's post-employment benefits and vested sick leave benefits dated January 2023. A valuation update was performed to determine the liability as reported in the Region's 2022 financial statements. A discount rate of 4.5% (2021 – 3.25%) was used for the determination of the liability.	Yes – Employee future benefits obligation/liability

Our response

- We obtained the actuarial valuation report and audited the data, method and assumptions applied in the valuation and performed trend analysis on the liability. We engaged our actuarial specialist to assist with these procedures.
- We evaluated the discount rate in comparison with rates issued by the Canadian Institute of Actuaries ("CIA") and KPMG LLP.
- We assessed the qualifications, competence and objectivity of the actuary as required by the Canadian auditing standards.
- We assessed the disclosures in the financial statements against the requirements of the PSAS.

Our findings

- Based on our review of the report prepared by the actuary, we noted that the method applied for the estimate is acceptable per the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) 3250 Retirement Benefits.
- We assessed the key assumptions used by the actuary in light of the Region's financial results. We also performed a sideways glance to compare the assumptions used by the actuary for the Region with other Ontario municipalities and we did not note any significant differences.
- We noted that the discount rate used by the Actuary is a key assumption. We evaluated the discount rate used by the actuary against the discount rate curve issued by different reliable sources. Based on this evaluation, we concluded that the discount rate used is reasonable.
- The disclosures included in the financial statements are in accordance with the requirements of the public sector accounting standards.
- Based on the audit work performed, we did not note any issues related to the calculation of the Region's employee benefits liability as at December 31, 2022.
- The employee benefit liability as at December 31, 2022 are outlined in note 6 to the financial statements.

Other findings and results

Contingencies

Other finding

PSAS 3300 Contingent Liabilities requires that the Region recognize a liability when “it is likely that a future event will confirm that a liability has been incurred at the date of the financial statements; and the amount can be reasonably estimated.” At any point in time, the Region is subject to a number of matters which could potentially result in the determination of a contingent liability as defined above, including, but not limited to matters such as legal claims, etc.

The Region has disclosed the legal liability in note 11 of the financial statements.

Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?

Estimation uncertainty exists related to the likelihood and measurement of the contingent liability.

However, this estimation uncertainty does not result in a risk of material misstatement.

Our response

- We held discussions with the Legal & Court Services Department of the Region to understand the process employed to determine the estimates for the liabilities related to legal matters.
- We obtained an understanding of the methodologies applied to compute the estimate, data involved, and assumptions applied.
- We obtained and evaluated the Region’s assessments and claims listing that are used to develop and record these estimated liabilities.
- We obtained a legal confirmation from internal legal counsel and evaluated the assessments made by internal legal counsel on the pending legal matters in terms of determination of likelihood and measurability.

Our findings

- Based on the audit work performed, we are satisfied that the method, data, and assumptions used by the Region are reasonable and consistent with industry norms. The approach is also consistent with prior years.
- As these items are resolved, it is possible that the final amounts recorded for these liabilities may change, however the amounts currently recorded represent management’s best estimate of exposure given the information presently available.
- Based on the work performed, the contingent liabilities reported by the Region are reasonable.

Other findings and results

Tangible capital assets

Other finding	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
Tangible capital assets present the biggest non-financial asset for the Region. There is a risk of material misstatement related to the existence and accuracy of tangible capital assets and accuracy of timing of revenue recognition, particularly related to funds intended for tangible capital assets.	No

Our response and findings

- We tested on a sample basis the additions to tangible capital assets and noted that management has appropriately capitalized the additions including transfers from work in progress to tangible capital assets. We obtained assurance related to the accuracy and existence of these additions and also assessed if these additions met the criteria for capitalization.
- We tested on a sample basis the work in progress to ensure amounts are properly transferred to correct capital asset classes and amortization commences on a timely basis.
- We tested on a sample basis contributed and assumed assets to assess if these assets had been recognized at fair market value at the date of contribution.
- We assessed financial statement note disclosure in line with the PSAS.
- We obtained amortization policy and assessed reasonableness of estimated useful lives in use and to address the requirements of new CAS540, Auditing Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosure related to useful lives.
- There were no other significant findings as a result of our audit procedures for tangible capital assets. The amounts reported for tangible capital assets are reasonable and disclosures in the financial statements are in accordance with the public sector accounting standards.

Other findings and results

Consolidation

Other finding	Estimate with a risk of material misstatement?
The Region consolidates the following entities and organizations in the consolidated financial statements for the Region: • Housing York Inc. • York Region Rapid Transit Corporation • YTN Telecom Network Inc. Inter-departmental and inter-organizational transactions and balances are between these entities and organizations are eliminated.	No

Our response and findings

- Each of the entities and organizations noted above are considered non-significant components to the Region's financial statements. For each of these entities and organizations, there is a required statutory audit performed. These individual audits are performed by the same audit team as for the main Region.
- We obtained an understanding of the consolidation process in place by management including the review and approval controls, checks and balances, and information system being utilized for the consolidation process and the financial reporting process.
- We obtained the consolidation workbook from management and completed our audit procedures related to consolidation including elimination of inter-departmental and inter-organizational transactions, pick up of government business enterprises and any other transactions that are relevant for consolidation.
- Based on the work performed we did not identify any issues or errors.

Significant accounting policies and practices

Initial selections of significant accounting policies and practices

None in 2022.

Description of new or revised significant accounting policies and practices

None in 2022. Refer to appendix C for upcoming significant accounting standard changes.

Significant qualitative aspects of the Company’s accounting policies and practices

Significant accounting policies are disclosed in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements

Estimates and assumptions are disclosed in Note 1 (b) (xix).

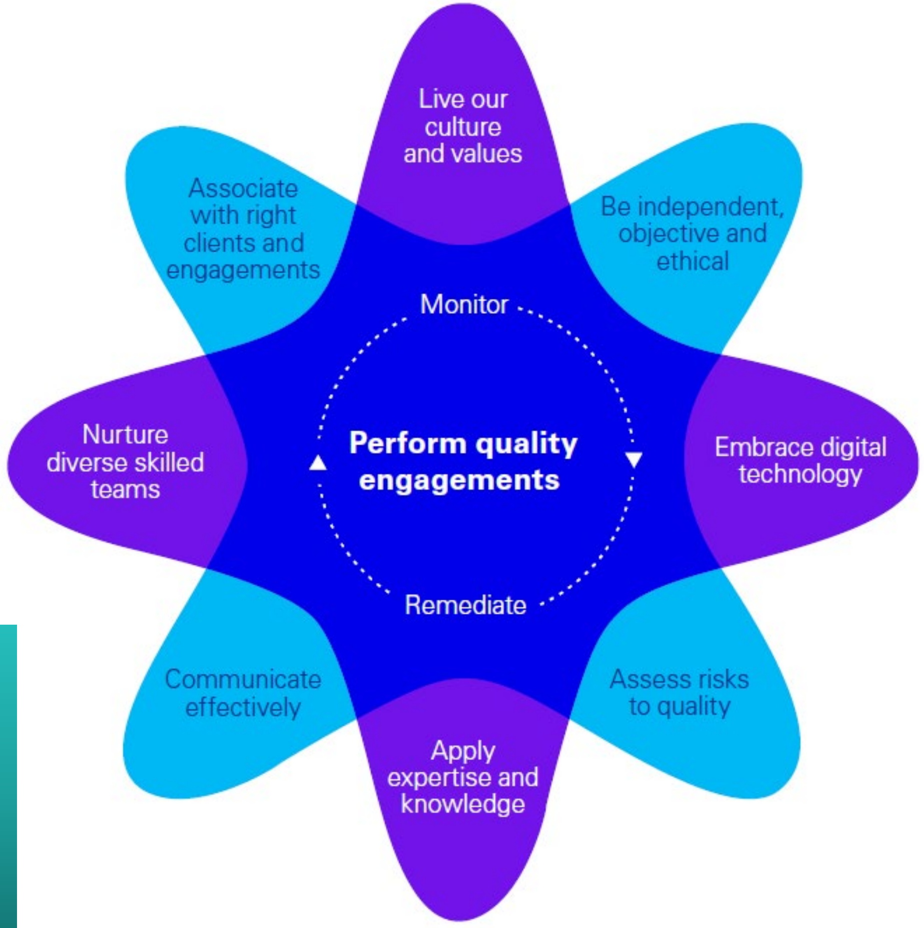
Audit quality: How do we deliver audit quality?

Quality essentially means doing the right thing and remains our highest priority. Our **Global Quality Framework** outlines how we deliver quality and how every partner and staff member contributes to its delivery.

Perform quality engagement sits at the core along with our commitment to continually monitor and remediate to fulfil on our quality drivers.

Our **quality value drivers** are the cornerstones to our approach underpinned by the **supporting drivers** and give clear direction to encourage the right behaviours in delivering audit quality.

KPMG 2022 Audit Quality and Transparency Report



We define 'audit quality' as being the outcome when:

- audits are **executed consistently**, in line with the requirements and intent of **applicable professional standards** within a strong **system of quality controls;** and
- all of our related activities are undertaken in an environment of the utmost level of **objectivity, independence, ethics** and **integrity.**

Appendices

A — Other required communications

B — Newly effective auditing standards

C — Changes in accounting standards

D — Environmental, social and governance (ESG)

E — Audit and assurance insights

Appendix A: Other required communications

Engagement terms

A copy of the engagement letter and any subsequent amendments has been provided to the Audit Committee.

CPAB communication protocol

The reports available through the following links were published by the Canadian Public Accountability Board to inform Audit Committees and other stakeholders about the results of quality inspections conducted over the past year:

- CPAB Audit Quality Insights Report: 2021 Annual Inspections Results
- CPAB Audit Quality Insights Report: 2022 Annual Inspections Results

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

CAS 315 (Revised) Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement has been revised, reorganized and modernized in response to challenges and issues with the previous standard. It aims to promote consistency in application, improve scalability, reduce complexity, support a more robust risk assessment and incorporate enhanced guidance material to respond to the evolving environment, including in relation to information technology. Conforming and consequential amendments have been made to other International Standards on Auditing.

A **risk of material misstatement** exists when there is a reasonable possibility of a misstatement occurring and being material if it were to occur

Affects both preparers of financial statements and auditors

Applies to audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2021

See here for more information from CPA Canada

We design and perform risk assessment procedures to obtain an understanding of the:

- entity and its environment;
- applicable financial reporting framework; and
- entity's system of internal control.

The audit evidence obtained from this understanding provides a basis for:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- the design of audit procedures that are responsive to the assessed risks of material misstatement.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including: • New requirement to take into account how, and the degree to which, 'inherent risk factors' affect the susceptibility of relevant assertions to misstatement • New concept of significant classes of transactions, account balances and disclosures and relevant assertions to help us to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement • New requirement to separately assess inherent risk and control risk for each risk of material misstatement • Revised definition of significant risk for those risks which are close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk	When assessing inherent risk for identified risks of material misstatement, we consider the degree to which inherent risk factors (such as complexity, subjectivity, uncertainty, change, susceptibility to management bias) affect the susceptibility of assertions to misstatement. We use the concept of the spectrum of inherent risk to assist us in making a judgement, based on the likelihood and magnitude of a possible misstatement, on a range from higher to lower, when assessing risks of material misstatement The changes may affect our assessments of the risks of material misstatement and the design of our planned audit procedures to respond to identified risks of material misstatement. If we do not plan to test the operating effectiveness of controls, the risk of material misstatement is the same as the assessment of inherent risk.	If the effect of this consideration is that our assessment of the risks of material misstatement is higher, then our audit approach may increase the number of controls tested and/or the extent of that testing, and/or our substantive procedures will be designed to be responsive to the higher risk. We may perform different audit procedures and request different information compared to previous audits, as part of a more focused response to the effects identified inherent risk factors have on the assessed risks of material misstatement.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including evaluating whether the audit evidence obtained from risk assessment procedures provides an appropriate basis to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement	When making this evaluation, we consider all audit evidence obtained, whether corroborative or contradictory to management assertions. If we conclude the audit evidence obtained does not provide an appropriate basis, then we perform additional risk assessment procedures until audit evidence has been obtained to provide such a basis.	In certain circumstances, we may perform additional risk assessment procedures, which may include further inquires of management, analytical procedures, inspection and/or observation.
Overall, a more robust risk identification and assessment process, including performing a 'stand back' at the end of the risk assessment process	We evaluate whether our determination that certain material classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures have no identified risks of material misstatement remains appropriate.	In certain circumstances, this evaluation may result in the identification of additional risks of material misstatement, which will require us to perform additional audit work to respond to these risks.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Modernized to recognize the evolving environment, including in relation to IT	New requirement to understand the extent to which the business model integrates the use of IT. When obtaining an understanding of the IT environment, including IT applications and supporting IT infrastructure, it has been clarified that we also understand the IT processes and personnel involved in those processes relevant to the audit. Based on the identified controls we plan to evaluate, we are required to identify the: • IT applications and other aspects of the IT environment relevant to those controls • related risks arising from the use of IT and the entity's general IT controls that address them. Examples of risks that may arise from the use of IT include unauthorized access or program changes, inappropriate data changes, risks from the use of external or internal service providers for certain aspects of the entity's IT environment or cybersecurity risks.	We will expand our risk assessment procedures and are likely to engage more extensively with your IT and other relevant personnel when obtaining an understanding of the entity's use of IT, the IT environment and potential risks arising from IT. This might require increased involvement of IT audit professionals. Changes in the entity's use of IT and/or the IT environment may require increased audit effort to understand those changes and affect our assessment of the risks of material misstatement and audit response. Risks arising from the use of IT and our evaluation of general IT controls may affect our control risk assessments, and decisions about whether we test the operating effectiveness of controls for the purpose of placing reliance on them or obtain more audit evidence from substantive procedures. They may also affect our strategy for testing information that is produced by, or involves, the entity's IT applications.
Enhanced requirements relating to exercising professional skepticism	New requirement to design and perform risk assessment procedures in a manner that is not biased toward obtaining audit evidence that may be corroborative or toward excluding audit evidence that may be contradictory. Strengthened documentation requirements to demonstrate the exercise of professional scepticism.	We may make changes to the nature, timing and extent of our risk assessment procedures, such as our inquires of management, the activities we observe or the accounting records we inspect.

Appendix B: Newly effective auditing standards

Key change	Impact on the audit team	Impact on management
Clarification of which controls need to be identified for the purpose of evaluating the design and implementation of a control	We will evaluate the design and implementation of controls that address risks of material misstatement at the assertion level as follows: • Controls that address a significant risk. • Controls over journal entries, including non-standard journal entries. • Other controls we consider appropriate to evaluate to enable us to identify and assess risks of material misstatement and design our audit procedures	We may identify new or different controls that we plan to evaluate the design and implementation of, and possibly test the operating effectiveness to determine if we can place reliance on them. We may also identify risks arising from IT relating to the controls we plan to evaluate, which may result in the identification of general IT controls that we also need to evaluate and possibly test whether they are operating effectively. This may require increased involvement of IT audit specialists.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards

Standard	Summary and implications

Asset retirement obligations	• The new standard PS 3280 *Asset retirement obligations* is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2022.
	• The new standard addresses the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of legal obligations associated with retirement of tangible capital assets. Retirement costs will be recognized as an integral cost of owning and operating tangible capital assets.
	• The asset retirement obligations (“ARO”) standard will require the public sector entity to record a liability related to future costs of any legal obligations to be incurred upon retirement of any controlled tangible capital assets (“TCA”). The amount of the initial liability will be added to the historical cost of the asset and amortized over its useful life if the asset is in productive use.
	• As a result of the new standard, the public sector entity will:
	  • Consider how the additional liability will impact net debt, as a new liability will be recognized with no corresponding increase in a financial asset;
	  • Carefully review legal agreements, senior government directives and legislation in relation to all controlled TCA to determine if any legal obligations exist with respect to asset retirements;
	  • Begin considering the potential effects on the organization as soon as possible to coordinate with resources outside the finance department to identify ARO and obtain information to estimate the value of potential ARO to avoid unexpected issues.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Financial instruments and foreign currency translation	• The new standards PS 3450 *Financial instruments*, PS 2601 *Foreign currency translation*, PS 1201 *Financial statement presentation* and PS 3041 *Portfolio investments* are effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2022. • Equity instruments quoted in an active market and free-standing derivatives are to be carried at fair value. All other financial instruments, including bonds, can be carried at cost or fair value depending on the public sector entity's choice and this choice must be made on initial recognition of the financial instrument and is irrevocable. • Hedge accounting is not permitted. • A new statement, the Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses, will be included in the financial statements. Unrealized gains and losses incurred on fair value accounted financial instruments will be presented in this statement. Realized gains and losses will continue to be presented in the statement of operations. • PS 3450 *Financial instruments* was amended subsequent to its initial release to include various federal government narrow-scope amendments.
Revenue	• The new standard PS 3400 *Revenue* is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023. • The new standard establishes a single framework to categorize revenue to enhance the consistency of revenue recognition and its measurement. • The standard notes that in the case of revenue arising from an exchange transaction, a public sector entity must ensure the recognition of revenue aligns with the satisfaction of related performance obligations. • The standard notes that unilateral revenue arises when no performance obligations are present, and recognition occurs when there is authority to record the revenue and an event has happened that gives the public sector entity the right to the revenue.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Purchased Intangibles	• The new Public Sector Guideline 8 *Purchased intangibles* is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023 with earlier adoption permitted. • The guideline allows public sector entities to recognize intangibles purchased through an exchange transaction. The definition of an asset, the general recognition criteria and GAAP hierarchy are used to account for purchased intangibles. • Narrow scope amendments were made to PS 1000 *Financial statement concepts* to remove the prohibition to recognize purchased intangibles and to PS 1201 *Financial statement presentation* to remove the requirement to disclose purchased intangibles not recognized. • The guideline can be applied retroactively or prospectively.
Public Private Partnerships	• The new standard PS 3160 *Public private partnerships* is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023. • The standard includes new requirements for the recognition, measurement and classification of infrastructure procured through a public private partnership. • The standard notes that recognition of infrastructure by the public sector entity would occur when it controls the purpose and use of the infrastructure, when it controls access and the price, if any, charged for use, and it controls any significant interest accumulated in the infrastructure when the public private partnership ends. • The public sector entity recognizes a liability when it needs to pay cash or non-cash consideration to the private sector partner for the infrastructure. • The infrastructure would be valued at cost, which represents fair value at the date of recognition with a liability of the same amount if one exists. Cost would be measured in reference to the public private partnership process and agreement, or by discounting the expected cash flows by a discount rate that reflects the time value of money and risks specific to the project. • The standard can be applied retroactively or prospectively.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Concepts Underlying Financial Performance	• The revised conceptual framework is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026 with earlier adoption permitted. • The framework provides the core concepts and objectives underlying Canadian public sector accounting standards. • The ten chapter conceptual framework defines and elaborates on the characteristics of public sector entities and their financial reporting objectives. Additional information is provided about financial statement objectives, qualitative characteristics and elements. General recognition and measurement criteria, and presentation concepts are introduced.

Financial Statement Presentation	• The proposed section PS 1202 *Financial statement presentation* will replace the current section PS 1201 *Financial statement presentation*. PS 1202 *Financial statement presentation* will apply to fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026 to coincide with the adoption of the revised conceptual framework. Early adoption will be permitted.
	• The proposed section includes the following:
	  • Relocation of the net debt indicator to its own statement called the statement of net financial assets/liabilities, with the calculation of net debt refined to ensure its original meaning is retained.
	  • Separating liabilities into financial liabilities and non-financial liabilities.
	  • Restructuring the statement of financial position to present total assets followed by total liabilities.
	  • Changes to common terminology used in the financial statements, including re-naming accumulated surplus (deficit) to net assets (liabilities).
	  • Removal of the statement of remeasurement gains (losses) with the information instead included on a new statement called the statement of changes in net assets (liabilities). This new statement would present the changes in each component of net assets (liabilities), including a new component called “accumulated other”.
	  • A new provision whereby an entity can use an amended budget in certain circumstances.
	  • Inclusion of disclosures related to risks and uncertainties that could affect the entity’s financial position.
	• The Public Sector Accounting Board is currently deliberating on feedback received on exposure drafts related to the reporting model.

Appendix C: Changes in accounting standards (continued)

Standard	Summary and implications
Employee benefits	• The Public Sector Accounting Board has initiated a review of sections PS 3250 *Retirement benefits* and PS 3255 *Post-employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits*. • The intention is to use principles from International Public Sector Accounting Standard 39 *Employee benefits* as a starting point to develop the Canadian standard. • Given the complexity of issues involved and potential implications of any changes that may arise from the review of the existing guidance, the new standards will be implemented in a multi-release strategy. The first standard will provide foundational guidance. Subsequent standards will provide additional guidance on current and emerging issues. • The proposed section PS 3251 *Employee benefits* will replace the current sections PS 3250 *Retirement benefits* and PS 3255 *Post-employment benefits, compensated absences and termination benefits*. It will apply to fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2026. Early adoption will be permitted and guidance applied retroactively. • This proposed section would result in public sector entities recognizing the impact of revaluations of the net defined benefit liability (asset) immediately on the statement of financial position. Organizations would also assess the funding status of their post-employment benefit plans to determine the appropriate rate for discounting post-employment benefit obligations. • The Public Sector Accounting Board is in the process of evaluating comments received from stakeholders on the exposure draft.

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Importance of Sustainability Reporting

Sustainability Reporting – Who is impacted?

- **Lenders and underwriters –** increased focus on ESG considerations when making access to capital decisions
- **Investors –** ESG integration has become an investment norm
- **Employees –** ESG has become a key factor in attracting and retaining top talent
- **Consumers –** stakeholders increasingly scrutinize companies' ESG performance and transparency affecting brand acceptance and consumer demand

Importance to the Audit Committee

- **Regulatory developments –** ESG-related compliance costs and disclosure requirements continue to evolve as rules are finalized
- **Material ESG issues –** Audit Committees should understand stakeholder priorities and the company's material ESG risks and opportunities
- **Value creation –** developing a clear ESG strategy, along with a standardized reporting process can set a company apart from its competitors

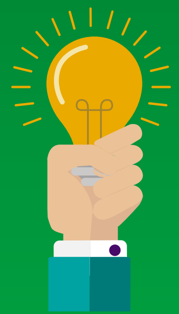
Governance on ESG Data and Sustainability Reporting

- **Data collecting and reporting –** understand the ESG frameworks and reporting standards most commonly adopted in the industry and jurisdiction (benchmark to others in the industry)
- **ESG assurance –** Audit Committees are best positioned to understand which ESG metrics merit assurance. An assurance readiness assessment on Carbon is a common and often recommended first place to start

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

All companies are facing climate-related risks and opportunities – and are making strategic decisions in response. The impacts of climate-related risks in the financial statements are broad, potentially complex and will depend on the industry-specific risks.

How might climate-related risks impact the financial statements?



01
Assets
Consider the useful lives and residual values of PP&E and intangible assets, cash flow projections used for impairment testing of non-financial assets, and the potential impacts on inventories.

02
Liabilities
Consider the recognition of environmental and decommissioning obligations, accounting for emissions or 'green' schemes, impact on employee-benefit arrangements, and restructuring provisions.

03
Borrowers
Consider the accounting for different forms of government assistance, potential for embedded derivatives in green bonds, lease of green technology, impacts of leasing polluting assets.

04
Lenders
Consider how climate-related risks impact operating and financing leases, the potential impact on expected credit losses, and whether green loans meet the SPPI criterion.

05
Disclosures
Consider the impact on the going concern assessment and related disclosures and whether the impacts of climate-related matters have been disclosed clearly.

See here for more information

Appendix D: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

The Sustainability reporting journey: Regulatory update

Recent Activity[1]

International (ISSB)

- Proposals published in March 2022 include **IFRS S1** – general requirements for disclosure of sustainability-related financial information and **IFRS S2** – climate-related disclosures, which would require investor-focused information on all sustainability-related risks and opportunities that the company is exposed to
- Applicability will be determined by national jurisdictions
- The ISSB has been actively redeliberating its two proposals with goal of finalizing as early as possible in 2023
- Some of the key items discussed at recent meetings include: keeping Scope 3 emissions disclosures in the final standards, requirement to report at the same time as financial statements, and maintaining the concept of investor materiality

EU (EFRAG)

- Proposals published in April 2022 would require companies to report information to meet the needs of all stakeholders across a range of sustainability topics specified in the CSRD
- In November, the European Parliament and European Council approved and adopted the CSRD, which amends and significantly expands the existing EU requirements for sustainability reporting
- In December, the CSRD was published in the Office Journal of the EU and will enter into force in early 2023. Member states will then have 18 months to transpose it into national law, and may make revisions as part of that process
- Notwithstanding that the CSRD is an EU Directive, there are considerable ESG reporting implications for non-EU based companies[2]

US (SEC)

- Proposal published in March 2022 would require investor-focused climate disclosures
- Due to a technological error, the SEC reopened the comment period through November 1 for its proposed climate rules and its proposed ESG rules for investment companies and advisers (along with other proposed rules)
- The SEC expects to release its final climate rules in April 2023
- The SEC's recent agenda also includes looking at disclosure rules on human capital management, with a proposal-expected to be released in April 2023

Canada (CSA)

- Proposal published in October 2021 would require investor-focused climate disclosures
- In October 2022, the CSA stated that it continues to actively consider international developments and how they may impact or inform its proposed climate-related disclosure rule

What about the CSSB?

- The Canadian Sustainability Standards Board (CSSB) is in the early stages of development and aims to be operational by April 2023
- In December, the CSSB was appointed an inaugural member of the SSAF, which will work with the ISSB towards a comprehensive global baseline of sustainability-related disclosure for capital markets

1. Refer to our *Q4 2022 Current Developments – Spotlight on IFRS*, *Q4 2022 Current Developments – Canadian Securities* and *Q4 2022 US Quarterly Outlook* publications for more details
2. Refer to our publication *ESG in Europe – Requirements covering non-EU companies formally adopted*

Appendix E: Audit and assurance insights

Our latest thinking on the issues that matter most to Audit Committees, board of directors and management.

KPMG Audit & Assurance Insights
Curated research and insights for audit committees and boards.

Board Leadership Centre
Leading insights to help board members maximize boardroom opportunities

Current Developments
Series of quarterly publications for Canadian businesses including Spotlight on IFRS, Canadian Securities & Auditing Matters and US Outlook reports.

Audit Committee Guide – Canadian Edition
A practical guide providing insight into current challenges and leading practices shaping audit committee effectiveness in Canada.

Accelerate 2023
The key issues driving the audit committee agenda in 2023.

Momentum
A quarterly newsletter with the latest thought-leadership from KPMG's subject matter leaders across Canada and valuable audit resources for clients.

KPMG Climate Change Financial Reporting Resource Centre
Our climate change resource centre provides insights to help you identify the potential financial statement impacts to your business.

IFRS Breaking News
A monthly Canadian newsletter that provides the latest insights on international financial reporting standards and IASB activities.

Other Insights

KPMG

kpmg.ca

KPMG member firms around the world have 227,000 professionals, in 145 countries.