



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**TO:** Members of the Audit Committee

**FROM:** Brian W. Horton, Senior Director of Corporate Services

**MEETING DATE:** December 13, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Report CPFRAS10-014  
2010 Audit Plan and Pre-Audit Planning Letter

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## **PURPOSE**

A report to recommend the City's 2010 Audit Plan and the Pre-Audit Planning Letter be received and that the Mayor and Chair of the Audit Committee sign the Pre-Audit Planning Letter.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in report CPFRAS10-014 dated December 13, 2010, of the Senior Director of Corporate Services as follows:

- a) That the 2010 Audit Plan for the Corporation of the City of Peterborough attached to report CPFRAS10-014 as Appendix A be received.
- b) That the Mayor and Chair of the Audit Committee be authorized to sign the Pre-Audit Planning Letter attached to report CPFRAS10-014 as Appendix B.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget and financial implications of receiving the 2010 Audit Plan or receiving and signing the Pre-Audit Planning Letter.

The 2010 Audit fees for the City and all its local boards are estimated to be \$107,100.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee specifies that the Audit Committee is responsible for “reviewing the arrangements for the scope of the annual audit, accounting principles, materiality limits, and the reasonableness of the annual audit fee”.

To comply, each year the Audit Committee receives the Audit Plan as prepared by the City’s external auditors, Collins Barrow Kawarthas, Chartered Accountants (the Auditors). Typically, the Committee would have met during the month of October for that express purpose as portions of the audit are conducted in the November/December time period. However, this year, the election has prevented us from presenting the reports to the Audit Committee within the normal timeframe. We are now submitting to the Audit Committee for their official endorsement.

During the period December 6 – 10, the Auditors have undertaken the Interim Audit and Systems Documentation Phase of the 2010 Audit.

Attached, as Appendix A to this report, is the 2010 Audit Plan.

Also attached as Appendix B to this report is a letter from the Auditors addressed to the members of the Audit Committee outlining the responsibilities of the parties involved with the Audit and the Audit approach and methodology that will be used by the Auditors to audit the 2010 Consolidated Financial Statements of the City of Peterborough.

To ensure a clear understanding by the Audit Committee and a record of matters discussed, the Auditors are requesting that two (2) members of the Audit Committee sign the letter as acknowledgement.

Submitted by,

Brian W. Horton  
Senior Director of Corporate Services

## **Contact Person**

Richard Freymond  
Manager, Financial Reporting and Accounting Services  
Phone 705-742-7777 Ext 1660  
Fax 705-876-4615  
Email address: [rfreymond@peterborough.ca](mailto:rfreymond@peterborough.ca)

**Attachments:**

**Appendix A - 2010 Audit Plan**  
**Appendix B – Pre-Audit Planning Letter**

Appendix A

**2010 Audit Plan**

## **CITY OF PETERBOROUGH**

### **2010 AUDIT PLAN**

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**I. AUDIT PLANNING**

**Purpose and use of report**

To enhance the effectiveness of the external audit process and to facilitate our cost effective approach of working with management to minimize our fees by involving your staff to the greatest extent possible, we are providing you with a written audit plan. This document is for use by both the City and our audit staff in planning the timing and audit emphasis of procedures which we propose to carry out during the audit.

A properly developed Audit Plan also meets the following three specific requirements of auditors:

1. Canadian generally accepted auditing standards require that audits be adequately planned and properly executed and a documented audit plan provides the basis for meeting this requirement.
2. It ensures coordination of audit activities with management's activities such as changes in City personnel, modification of financial systems or changes in emphasis of administrative activities.
3. The preparation of an audit plan assists the Audit Committee in reviewing, and making suggestions to, the overall scope of the external auditor's activities.

While the purpose of our planned audit activities is directed towards ultimately expressing a professional opinion on the Financial Report, an important by-product of these services is the ability to provide practical management advice to all levels of personnel at the City. As auditors, we must be cognizant of areas where our knowledge gained, and experience developed, at the City and other organizations can assist in providing useful recommendations and advice. Accordingly, the audit staff is encouraged to make suggestions regarding areas where they believe the City could improve operating results and where work could be completed in a more efficient and timely manner. Any such information will be discussed with management and summarized in our year end letter to management.

The audit plan has been prepared in a flexible manner to accommodate any modifications which may be required as a result of matters discovered during the course of any of our audit activities or as a result of significant operating changes of which we are not yet aware.

## CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

### 2010 Audit Plan

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#### I. AUDIT PLANNING (continued)

##### Key dates

##### (a) Meetings

(i)	CAO, Senior Director of Corporate Services and other financial staff	October 4, 2010	Review draft audit plan
(ii)	Audit Committee Co-Chairs	October 2010	Review and endorse audit plan
(iii)	Audit Committee	December 2010 or January 2011	Review and approve audit plan
(iv)	CAO, Senior Director of Corporate Services and other financial staff	May 24, 2011	Review draft management letter
(v)	Audit Committee	June 20, 2011	Present management letter and be in attendance to respond to questions
(vi)	Local Board meetings to present financial statements and respond to questions	as required	Be present at meetings

##### (b) Audit field work

(i)	Interim audit and systems documentation	December 6 to 10, 2010
(ii)	Gas tax and transit audits	March 22, 2011
(iii)	Year end audit including review to accompany TPAR and museum report	April 4 to 15, 2011
(iv)	Audit of the consolidated financial statements	April 26 to 29, 2011

##### (c) Deliverables

(i)	Gas tax and transit audit reports	March 25, 2011
(ii)	Draft auditors' reports	June 9, 2011
(iii)	Management letter	June 9, 2011

# CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

## 2010 Audit Plan

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### I. AUDIT PLANNING (continued)

#### Key dates (continued)

(d) Statutory filing deadlines	
(i) Audited financial statements	When available
(ii) Financial Information Return (FIR) and Performance Measurers (MPMP)	May 31, 2011
(iii) Gas tax and transit audit reports	March 31, 2011
(iv) Review report to accompany TPAR	April 30, 2011
(v) Peterborough Centennial Museum statement	June 30, 2011

#### Use of client's accounting staff

We would like to use the City's staff to the greatest extent possible through the performance of many tasks ranging from the retrieval of source documents from City files to the preparation of year end working papers. In this regard, we will provide City staff with a list of information we will require.

Although we have gained efficiencies through the use of client's personnel, the audit staff must be continually alert as to other areas where the use of client staff or alternative audit procedures can result in improved audit effectiveness.

#### Audit fee budget

Estimated fees are based on our 2009 rates detailed in our 2009 Audit Plan with an increase of 2.5%.

	<u>Total Fee</u>
City of Peterborough (including Reserves and Trust Funds)	\$ 67,750
Review engagement report required by Province for Social Services programs (TPAR)	2,600
Peterborough County City Health Unit	14,000
Fairhaven (long term care facility)	9,150
The Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation	4,000
The Art Gallery of Peterborough	3,225
The Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area	2,450
The Village Business Improvement Area	700
The Peterborough Public Library	<u>3,225</u>
	<u>\$ 107,100</u>



**I. AUDIT PLANNING (continued)**

**Accounting services**

If any situation should arise, we would discuss the matter with the Senior Staff and possibly the Audit Committee (if considered necessary) prior to any additional work being performed. This discussion would include a commitment to a cost amount.

**Materiality**

At the planning stage of the audit, materiality is considered in determining the nature, extent and timing of audit procedures. The consolidated materiality used in developing our audit procedures is based on total revenues. Currently, we are planning to use a materiality of \$3,750,000. This materiality is only an estimate based on the 2010 budget. If final year-end figures differ significantly, materiality will be adjusted accordingly.

**Tangible Capital Assets**

Additions to capital assets will be audited as part of the purchases/payables stream to ensure that they do meet the definition of tangible capital assets or betterment to an existing tangible capital asset. Disposals and amortization will be audited on a sample basis with an overall reasonability of amortization performed.

**Staffing**

The engagement team will be as follows:

Bob Fisher FCA, Engagement Partner  
Richard Steiging CA, Lead Partner  
Joanna Park CA, Lead Partner  
Duane Potter, CA, Senior Manager  
Gloria Raybone CA, Senior Accountant  
Stephanie Gates, Senior Accountant  
Amanda Cackette, Staff Accountant  
Arryn McNichol, Staff Accountant

**I. AUDIT PLANNING (continued)**

**Assumptions**

Since our prime responsibility will be to express an opinion on the financial statements of the City of Peterborough, our audit approach will be based upon the following assumptions:

- i) That the accounting transactions and monthly reconciliations are completed, reviewed and accurate.
- ii) That your Finance staff will prepare such schedules, analyses, and other information for the City and its internal departments and local boards as requested during the audit. The Finance staff will also prepare the financial statements and the Financial Information Return.
- iii) That effective systems of internal controls continue to be adhered to as have been described to us.

Based on these assumptions being met, we can meet our professional standards and provide high quality professional service to you on a cost-efficient basis.

**II. PLANNED AUDIT PROCEDURES**

**Interim Audit - Systems Review, Internal Control Evaluation, Testing and Recommendations**

In order to meet our professional standards we review the accounting systems and related systems of internal control. Internal controls within the accounting system that we intend to rely upon for audit purposes are tested to ensure that they have operated effectively throughout the year. This reliance allows us to attain audit evidence in a cost-effective manner, and the effectiveness of the internal control structure guides us in determining the extent of our substantive audit testing.

During our interim audit we not only review the systems of internal controls at City Hall, we also review the systems of the following divisions: POA, Transit, Solid Waste, Building, Parking, Social Services and Recreation (including visits to the Memorial Centre and the Sport and Wellness Centre).

Should we determine that there are weaknesses in the system of internal controls, they will be reported to you. Where weaknesses are identified, we will suggest alternatives to allow improvements, where possible. Also included in our report are areas where improvements can be made to maximize revenue and minimize expenditures. With our significant experience in the municipal realm, you benefit from our knowledge of working with many different systems and knowing what "works best" in various circumstances.

**II. PLANNED AUDIT PROCEDURES (continued)**

Our reports will be drafted at the end of the audit and presented to your Senior Director of Corporate Services for discussion. The letters will then be finalized incorporating comments for the final version to be included in the Senior Director of Corporate Services' report to Council.

**Year End Audit**

Our year end visit emphasizes detailed examination of transactions and balances reported on your financial statements. Much of the testing of transactions processed through your accounting systems will have been sampled and tested during the interim audit. We then update these tests for a sample of items processed since our interim visit. Our risk based audit approach will focus our audit efforts on significant items in the year end. This approach ensures the audit process is efficient as possible for us and the City. We will co-ordinate our efforts to complete our field work according to the prearranged deadlines, as set out in the key date section of this plan.

**Approach to Sampling**

The extent of testing is based on our professional judgement, incorporating our risk assessment, the effectiveness of controls over the business processes and dollar value significance of the transaction. Non-routine and complex transactions are singled out for detailed scrutiny.

**Management Letters**

We have provided constructive advice to streamline the operations of our clients. We place a high priority on meaningful and timely management letters designed to enhance internal controls and communicate regulatory matters of importance and identify opportunities to enhance operational performance.

Should we discover any information or situation which would otherwise lead to the inclusion of a qualified opinion with respect to the City's financial statements, we will immediately inform and fully discuss such matters with the Senior Director of Corporate Services.

## II. PLANNED AUDIT PROCEDURES (continued)

### Quality Control Procedures

We strive to deliver service of the highest quality to all of our clients at all times. Collins Barrow Kawarthas LLP will meet this objective in two ways. First, we focus on quality during our field work by placing senior people in the field for project management. This gives us flexibility to fine tune our field work to adapt to ongoing changes in your operations.

Second, our service and technical review policies provide a double check to ensure we meet our clients' needs and maintain a high level of technical excellence. The quality control procedures will include:

- **File Review.** The quality of the service will be enhanced by a requirement that all work be reviewed by a team member more senior than the person performing the work. This will include the review of working papers by partners and managers.
- **Concurring Audit Review.** We have another partner with relevant experience review the financial statements and management letters, and participate in the discussion and resolution of significant accounting and reporting matters.

### Meetings

We will attend such meetings as are called to discuss our work and reports and shall provide such information as requested to enhance the understanding of the members of Council concerning matters pertaining to the annual financial statements. In addition to reviewing draft financial statements with staff, we would attend the Audit Committee and/or Council to present our comments as a result of our audit.

## III. OTHER PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

### New Auditing Standards

There are a number of significant changes taking place to accounting and auditing standards in Canada. The biggest impact for the 2010 City audit will be the adoption of new Canadian Auditing Standards (CASs). These new standards are effective for periods ending on or after December 14, 2010. Most of the new standards have remained unchanged but there will be some impact on our audit work and the way we perform the audit. We will discuss these standards with the Finance Staff during the interim audit.

Appendix B

# **Pre-Audit Planning Letter**

October 4, 2010

Members of the Audit Committee  
City of Peterborough  
500 George Street North  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9H 3R9

**Re: Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements of City of Peterborough**

Dear Audit Committee Members:

This report is intended solely for the use of the Audit Committee and should not be distributed without our prior consent. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

We have been engaged to express an audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the City of Peterborough ("the City") for the year ended December 31, 2010. Canadian Auditing Standards ("CAS") require that we communicate the following information with you in relation to your audit.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining an adequate internal control structure and procedures for financial reporting. This includes the design and maintenance of accounting records, recording transactions, selecting and applying accounting policies, safeguarding of assets and preventing and detecting fraud and error.

**Auditor Independence**

CAS require communications with audit committees, or other appropriate parties responsible for governance, at least annually, regarding all relationships between the City and our firm that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

We will, through our planning process, identify any potential independence threats and will communicate any concerns we identify. The City, management and the Audit Committee have a proactive role in this process, and are responsible for understanding the independence requirements applicable to the City and its auditor. You must also bring to our attention any concerns you may have, or any knowledge of situations or relationships between the City, management, personnel (acting in an oversight or financial reporting role) and our firm, its partners, and audit team personnel that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

In determining which relationships to report, these standards require us to consider relevant rules and related interpretations prescribed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario and applicable legislation, covering such matters as:

- (a) holding a financial interest, either directly or indirectly, in a client;
- (b) holding a position, either directly or indirectly, that gives the right or responsibility to exert significant influence over the financial or accounting policies of a client;
- (c) personal or business relationships of immediate family, close relatives, partners or retired partners, either directly or indirectly, with a client;

- (d) economic dependence on a client; and
- (e) provision of services in addition to the audit engagement.

In accordance with our professional requirements, we advise you that we are not aware of any relationships between the City and our Firm that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

Accordingly, we hereby confirm that our audit engagement team, our firm and the other Collins Barrow offices are independent with respect to the City within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 204 of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

### **Our Responsibilities as Auditor**

As stated in the engagement letter, our responsibility as auditor of your City is to express an opinion on whether the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the City in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

An audit is performed to obtain reasonable but not absolute assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Due to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some misstatements of the financial statements will not be detected (particularly intentional misstatements concealed through collusion), even though the audit is properly planned and performed.

Our audit includes:

- Assessing the risk that the financial statements may contain material misstatements that, individually or in the aggregate, are material to the financial statements taken as a whole;
- Examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Assessing the accounting principles used, and their application; and
- Assessing the significant estimates made by management.

As part of our audit, we will obtain a sufficient understanding of the business and internal control structure of the City to plan the audit. This will include management's assessment of:

- The risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud and error; and
- The internal controls put in place by management to address such risks.

The engagement team must undertake a documented planning process prior to commencement of the audit to identify concerns, address independence considerations, assess the engagement team requirements, and plan the audit work and timing. It may be necessary to contact members of the Audit Committee if significant matters arise from planning procedures.

An audit does not relieve management or those responsible for governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the City's financial statements.

## **Audit Committee Members' Responsibilities**

The Audit Committee's role is to act in an objective, independent capacity as a liaison between the auditor, management and city council to ensure the auditors have a facility to consider and discuss governance and audit issues with parties not directly responsible for operations.

The Audit Committee's responsibilities include:

- Being available to assist and provide direction in the audit planning process when and where appropriate;
- Meeting with the auditors as necessary and prior to release and approval of financial statements to review audit, disclosure and compliance issues;
- Where necessary, reviewing matters raised by the auditor with appropriate levels of management, and reporting back to the auditors their findings;
- Making known to the auditor any issues of disclosure, corporate governance, fraud or illegal acts, non-compliance with laws or regulatory requirements that are known to them, where such matters may impact the financial statements or the Independent Auditors' Report;
- Providing guidance and direction to the auditor on any additional work the auditor feels should be undertaken in response to issues raised or concerns expressed;
- Making such enquiries as appropriate into the findings of the auditor with respect to corporate governance, management conduct, cooperation, information flow and systems of internal controls;
- Reviewing the draft financial statements prepared by management, including the presentation, disclosures and supporting notes and schedules, for accuracy, completeness and appropriateness, and approve same to be passed to directors for approval; and
- Pre-approving all professional services and allowable consulting services to be provided by the auditors.

## **Audit Approach**

Outlined below are certain aspects of our audit approach which are intended to help you in discharging your oversight responsibilities. Our general approach to the audit of City of Peterborough is to assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements and then respond by designing audit procedures.

## **Illegal Acts, Fraud, Intentional Misstatements and Errors**

Our auditing procedures, including tests of your accounting records, will be limited to those considered necessary in the circumstances and will not necessarily disclose all illegal acts, fraud, intentional misstatements or errors should any exist. We will conduct the audit under CAS, which include procedures to consider (based on the control environment, governance structure and circumstances encountered during the audit), the potential likelihood of fraud and illegal acts occurring.



These procedures are not designed to test for fraudulent or illegal acts, nor will they necessarily detect such acts or recognize them as such, even if the effect of its consequences on the financial statements is material. However, should we become aware that an illegal or possible illegal act or an act of fraud may have occurred, other than one considered clearly inconsequential, we will communicate this information directly to the Audit Committee.

It is management's responsibility to detect and prevent illegal actions. If such acts are discovered or the Audit Committee becomes aware of circumstances under which the City may have been involved in fraudulent, illegal or regulatory non-compliance situations, such circumstances must be disclosed to us.

### **Related Party Transactions**

During our audit, we conduct various tests and procedures to identify transactions considered to involve related parties. Related parties exist when one party has the ability to exercise, directly or indirectly, control, joint control or significant influence over the other. Two or more parties are related when they are subject to common control, joint control or common significant influence. Related parties also include management, directors and their immediate family members and companies with which these individuals have an economic interest.

We will ensure that any related party transactions that are identified during the audit have been represented by management to have been disclosed in the notes to financial statements, recorded in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, and have been reviewed with you. Management is required to advise us if any related party transactions have occurred that have not been disclosed to us. The Audit Committee is required to advise us if they are aware of or suspect any other related party transactions have occurred which have not been disclosed in the financial statements.

### **Significant Accounting Principles and Policies**

The City's financial statements will be prepared by management using various accounting principles, which have been incorporated into the City's accounting policies and disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Where accounting policies have changed from one period to the next, such changes will be noted and the effect of these changes will be disclosed.

The accounting policies adopted may be acceptable policies under Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards; however, alternative policies may also be acceptable under Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The City and the Audit Committee have a responsibility to not adopt extreme or inappropriate interpretations of Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards that may have inappropriate or misleading results. Alternative policies, if adopted, may produce significant changes in the reported results of the operations, financial position and disclosures of the City.

The Audit Committee has a responsibility to review the accounting policies adopted by the City, and where alternative policies are available, make determinations as to the most appropriate policies to be adopted in the circumstances. If members of the Audit Committee are concerned that the adoption or change of an accounting policy may produce an inappropriate or misleading result in financial reporting or disclosure, this concern must be discussed with management and the auditors. If the Audit Committee believes that a policy or policies adopted are inappropriate or produce a misleading result in the circumstances, these concerns should be discussed with us directly, either privately or in Audit Committee meetings.

## **Risk-based**

Our risk-based approach focuses on obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce the risk of material misstatement in the financial statements to an appropriately low level. This means that we focus our audit work on areas that have a higher risk of being materially misstated.

Based on our knowledge of the City's business and our past experience, we have identified the following areas that have a potentially higher risk of a material misstatement.

- a) Year-end cut-off for accounts receivable and accounts payable;
- b) Landfill and employee future benefit estimates;
- c) Useful life estimates for the tangible capital assets; and
- d) Consolidation of subsidiaries.

## **Materiality**

Materiality is defined as:

*Materiality is the term used to describe the significance of financial statement information to decision makers. An item of information, or an aggregate of items, is material if it is probable that its omission or misstatement would influence or change a decision. Materiality is a matter of professional judgment in the particular circumstances.*

We plan to use an overall financial statement materiality of \$3,750,000 and a performance materiality of \$3,187,500. Performance materiality is the level of materiality that will be used in performing the audit procedures and determining sample sizes.

Materiality is used throughout the audit and in particular when:

- a) Identifying and assessing risk of material misstatement;
- b) Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures; and
- c) Evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming an opinion on the auditors' report.

## **Audit Procedures**

In responding to our risk assessment, we will use a combination of tests of controls, tests of details and substantive analytical procedures. The objective of the tests of controls is to evaluate whether certain controls operated effectively. The objective of the tests of details is to detect material misstatements in the account balances and transaction streams. Substantive analytical procedures are used to identify differences between recorded amounts and predictable expectations in larger volumes of transactions over time.

### Assignment of Engagement Partner and Key Audit Personnel

The Firm is responsible for assigning an engagement practitioner as lead partner responsible for the City's audit and other engagements. Such individuals and their roles are to be identified to the Audit Committee. The key individuals involved in the audit are:

Engagement Partner:

Robert J. Fisher, FCA

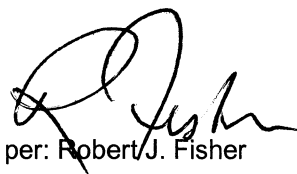
Lead Partners:

Richard Steinginga, CA and Joanna Park, CA

To ensure there is a clear understanding and record of the matters discussed, we ask that members of the Audit Committee sign their acknowledgement in the spaces provided below. Should any member of the Audit Committee wish to discuss or review any matter addressed in this letter or any other matters related to financial reporting, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Yours very truly,

**Collins Barrow Kawarthas LLP**



per: Robert J. Fisher

### Acknowledgement of Audit Committee:

Are you aware of any frauds, illegal acts or management override of internal controls at the City?

Yes / No (please circle one)

If yes, please contact our office immediately.

We have read and reviewed the above disclosures and understand and agree with the comments therein:

**City of Peterborough**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position