

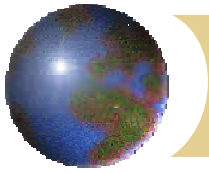
Learning Event for World Bank Staff
February 21, 2008
Colombo, Sri Lanka

PACs in Canada



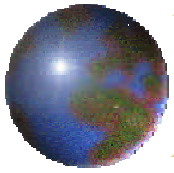
Craig James

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia; and
Executive Director
Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees



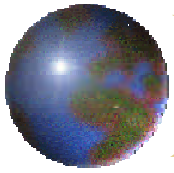
Introduction

- ✦ Clerk of BC PAC (since 1987 to present)
- ✦ Executive Director, CCPAC (since 1985)



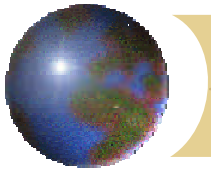
Facts about Canadian PACs

- ❖ 14 PACs in Canada
(13 subnational; 1 national)
- ❖ Surveys of Canadian PACs
- ❖ No one-size-fits-all model for an effective PAC



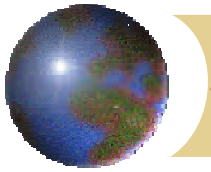
PAC Membership

- ✦ Opposition Chair elected by PAC members
- ✦ All-party committee of Private Members (backbenchers)



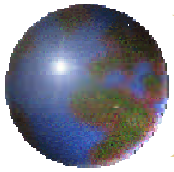
PAC Size

- ✚ Canadian PACs vary in size
- ✚ No ideal number of members
- ✚ 9-member PAC is manageable



PAC Statement

- ✚ Useful to have a statement of PAC mandate and powers
- ✚ Only a few PACs in Canada have such a document



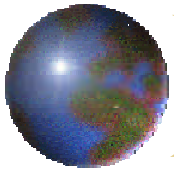
Managing PAC Workload

- ✿ Subcommittee on agenda and procedure useful
- ✿ BC subcommittee consists of Chair and Deputy Chair
- ✿ BC secretariat staff attend subcommittee meetings



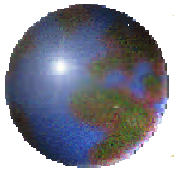
PAC Secretariats

- ✿ 7 of 14 PACs in Canada do not have research staff
- ✿ Committee budgets also vary



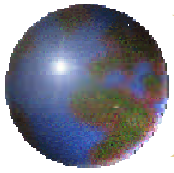
Reporting Practices

- ✚ Different processes of reporting back to House
- ✚ Formal follow-up process used by BC PAC



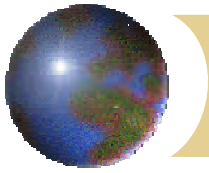
Collaboration among PAC Chairs

- ✚ Chairs of Canadian PACs meet once a year
- ✚ Venue is annual conference of the CCPAC



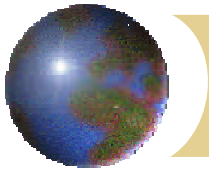
What is CCPAC?

- ✦ National association of PAC Chairs and Deputy Chairs
- ✦ Annual conference held at same time as auditors' conference



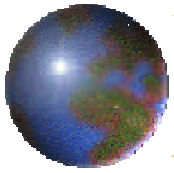
How CCPAC got started

- ✚ Founding meeting held in 1981
- ✚ Older than the ACPAC
- ✚ Rotation system for 3-member board



How CCPAC structure could work in SAR

- ✿ First president would be PAC Chair hosting network's founding conference
- ✿ Vice-presidents would be hosts of next two conferences



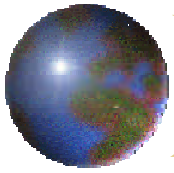
What is CCPAC primary function?

- ✚ Information-sharing among PAC members
- ✚ Agenda of annual conference is member-driven
- ✚ Conference proceedings posted on CCPAC website



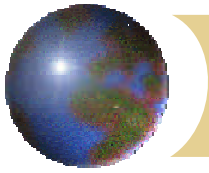
How are CCPAC activities funded?

- ✚ Fees paid by conference delegates
- ✚ Cost-sharing arrangement with CCOLA
- ✚ In-kind support from BC secretariat



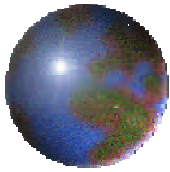
Networking among PAC Clerks

- ❖ No formal network for PAC Clerks in Canada
- ❖ Some have access to list-serve of Canadian table officers



Conclusion

- ✚ Importance of collaboration and networking
- ✚ Support for proposed networks in SAR



Further information about the CCPAC is
available at:
www.ccpac.ca/

