

Chapter 3

Section 3.07

Review of Government Advertising

Standing Committee on Public Accounts Follow-Up on Chapter 4, 2018 Annual Report

On May 15, 2019, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Committee) held a public hearing on Chapter 4 of our *2018 Annual Report*. The Committee tabled a report on this hearing in the Legislature in December 2019. A link to the full report can be found at www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/standingcommittee/standingcommittee.html.

The Committee made one recommendation and asked the Treasury Board Secretariat (Secretariat) to report back by May 2020. It formally responded to the Committee on May 29, 2020. The status of the Committee's recommendation is shown in **Figure 1**.

We conducted assurance work between April 15, 2020, and July 17, 2020, and obtained written representation from the Secretariat that effective October 5, 2020, it had provided us with a complete update of the status of the recommendation made by the Committee.

Overall Conclusion

As of July 17, 2020, there had been little or no progress on the Committee's recommendation.

Detailed Status of Recommendation

Figure 2 shows the recommendation and status details that are based on responses from Treasury Board Secretariat, and our review of the information provided.

Figure 1: Summary Status of Actions Recommended in December 2019 Committee Report

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

	# of Actions Recommended	Status of Actions Recommended				
		Fully Implemented	In the Process of Being Implemented	Little or No Progress	Will Not Be Implemented	No Longer Applicable
Recommendation 1	1			1		
Total	1	0	0	1	0	0
%	100	0	0	100	0	0

Figure 2: Committee Recommendation and Detailed Status of Actions Taken

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Committee Recommendation	Status Details
Recommendation 1 The <i>Government Advertising Act, 2004</i> , as it appeared on June 3, 2015, be reinstated, while leaving in the amendment that added digital advertising as a reviewable medium. Status: Little or no progress.	The government indicated that it continues to explore options for the review of government advertising. The government stated that it reviews all advertising paid for by the province to ensure it is delivered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner to maximize value for taxpayers.
