

HRM has not provided appropriate oversight of its cybersecurity risks, Auditor General, Evangeline Colman-Sadd, said in her report released today, August 16th.

The audit found that HRM Information Technology business unit’s strategic cybersecurity initiatives have not been adequately planned; there are no timelines to complete or details of the resources required. IT management has conducted internal and external cybersecurity reviews, but risks identified have not been effectively assessed and prioritized. “The cybersecurity program at HRM requires attention, known risks are not being effectively managed” the auditor general said.

The audit also found there were limited IT policies and procedures, including in important areas such patch management and network access. In addition, key cybersecurity responsibilities are not assigned. “Documented policies and procedures, with roles defined, help ensure important processes and tasks are performed consistently” said Colman-Sadd.

The auditor general’s report includes 16 recommendations which HRM management agreed to implement. The report is available on the auditor general’s website at <https://hrmauditorgeneral.ca/published-reports>.

Given the sensitive nature of cybersecurity, there is also a confidential report with additional information and recommendations. This report was shared with management, and in-camera with the HRM Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

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In her report released today, Auditor General Evangeline Colman-Sadd said HRM Information Technology has not provided appropriate oversight of its cybersecurity risks.

Cybersecurity risks have not been adequately assessed and prioritized, and strategic initiatives have not been effectively planned for. The audit also found gaps in IT policies and procedures.

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