

**Doug Ford Comments Responding to the Auditor General's Review
of the Pre-Election Report
April 26, 2018**

Doug Ford, Leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives

- The government has cooked the books
- There's a hidden deficit
- Unless we take action, that number will continue to grow
- It's a betrayal of the public trust
- The consequences of the government's desperation are unclear. We cannot trust anything this government says. It's not worth the paper it's written on
- The people of Ontario are angry and so am I
- I promise you we will get this resolved. We are going to get those answers
- We have already promised an outside audit
- But now that we know how shocking the extent of this scandal is, we know this is not business as usual
- We will initiate an end-to-end commission of the inquiry
- Similar to the Sheila Fraser sponsorship scandal
- We will clean this mess up for the people of Ontario
- We will restore Ontario to fiscal health in a responsible manner, clean up the waste and restore the services
- It took 15 years to create this mess and it will not be solved overnight. I will not tire until we restore Ontario's accountability trust and Ontario's finances are healthy
- I'll now take your questions

Q1: If you accept the Auditor's accounting, are you still planning to balance the books?

A1: Our goal is always to balance the books. It won't be the first year. We'll do this in a responsible manner. We're going to find 4% in efficiencies. It won't be the first year. I can promise you one thing. We're going to be balancing the books.

Q2: [Inaudible]

A2: We don't trust anything the Liberals have done. We think it's higher and that's why we need an outside firm to go line item by line item. And I think people will be shocked. This is the biggest financial scandal in Canadian history that we've ever seen, to hide \$5 billion.

Q3: How is it not wasteful to spend money on doing an external audit, when the AG has already looked at the books? Do you not trust her numbers?

A3: They haven't given the AG the freedom to go in and access the books. We're going to be responsible. When it comes to budgets, people want to know where they stand. They want answers. It keeps changing.

Q4: Are you saying you don't trust the AG's numbers?

A4: Absolutely not. I think she did a great job. But we need an external audit to go line by line through the books. People are tired of the government wasting billions of dollars.

Q5: What makes you think there's something else? What else do you think is hiding in there?

A5: Again, we need to go item by item, ministry by ministry. When we go in there, we're going to find additional waste, and find ways to drive efficiencies. This government is furthest from the truth. We believe in accountability, transparency and bringing integrity back to the province of Ontario.

Q6: You allude to Shiela Fraser. Are you suggesting corruption?

A6: We need someone like a Shiela Fraser. We need someone like her to look, to come in here and run through the books to make sure that the people of Ontario have the confidence when, on June 8, a new government takes over.

Q7: What are you going to do with the Fair Hydro Plan?

A7: Once we start running through the books, we'll have a better idea. We'll have a fully costed plan. Until we get in there, we can't start guessing. Every day there is a new financial scandal with this government.

Q8: [Inaudible] How do you cut?

A8: Once we get in there, we'll have a fully costed plan. When we get in there, our books will be totally open.

Q9: How does an independent commission work differently from the work of the AG?

A9: It's a different fashion, working hand in hand with the auditor. It's going to be the best investment this province has ever seen. For once, we're going to open the financial books. Because right now, no one knows where we stand.

Q10: Then why bother doing an independent audit?

[Applause]

A: Thank you, thank you.