FW: Interview requests re: Fair Hydro Plan

From: "Ue, Allison (TBS)" <allison.ue@ontario.ca>
To: "Angus, Helen (TBS)" <helen.angus@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Skoberne, Vivienne (TBS)" <vivienne.skoberne@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 17 Apr 2018 17:26:54 -0400

Hi Helen,

FYI – Matthew McClearn from the Globe and Mail is working on an article about the financial and accounting structure of the Fair Hydro Plan, and its impact on the Public Accounts. He has requested an interview with DM Thompson, you and Cindy.

Below is the response that MOF sent to him:

Deputy Minister Thompson signs a Statement of Responsibility as part of the Public Accounts process, along with Helen Angus (Deputy Minister of Treasury Board) and Cindy Veinot (Provincial Controller).

He signs off solely in his capacity as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Finance to provide reasonable assurance that transactions recorded in the Consolidated Financial Statements are within statutory authority, assets are properly safeguarded and reliable financial information is available for preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements, from the Ministry of Finance perspective.

As I said in my previous email, the Public Accounts are overseen by Treasury Board and the Fair Hydro Plan is overseen by the Ministry of Energy.

Therefore if you have any further questions about Public Accounts or the Fair Hydro Plan, we would respectfully request that you contact those ministries.

Below is our proposed response:

Thanks for your message regarding setting up an interview with Cindy Veinot, Provincial Controller, and Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), with regards to the financial and accounting structure for Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan (OFHP).

As only one of the actors involved in OFHP, TBS would not be able to speak comprehensively to the financial and accounting structure without the various other relevant officials present, which may be difficult to accommodate at this time.

However, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will be sure to connect with our counterparts across ministries and organizations to ensure that our responses are as comprehensive and relevant as possible.

Our response is aligned with our MO's preference to answer questions via. email, as opposed to an interview.

Thanks,
Allison

From: McClearn, Matthew [mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com]
Sent: April 17, 2018 10:37 AM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS); Tharani, Alisha (TBS)
Subject: Interview requests re: Fair Hydro Plan

Lawvin, Alisha:

It's Matt McClearn from The Globe again. The Ministry of Finance is indicating that its signature on the Public Accounts is limited. (See below.) This suggests that Ms. Angus and Ms. Veinot carry greater responsibility for the financial statements. I didn't realize that. Can you please confirm the Finance Ministry's understanding? Why do they assume greater responsibility than Mr. Thompson?

In any case, I request an interview with Ms. Angus about her role in the accounting and financial structure of the Fair Hydro Plan and its impact on the Public Accounts. And I wanted to check in on the status of my request with Ms. Veinot. Thanks and regards,

Matt.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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From: Blodgett, Scott (MOF) [mailto:Scott.Blodgett@ontario.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:46 PM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Subject: RE: Interview request: Scott Thompson

Hi Matt –

Deputy Minister Thompson signs a Statement of Responsibility as part of the Public Accounts process, along with Helen Angus (Deputy Minister of Treasury Board) and Cindy Veinot (Provincial Controller).

He signs off solely in his capacity as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Finance to provide reasonable assurance that transactions recorded in the Consolidated Financial Statements are within statutory authority, assets are properly safeguarded and reliable financial information is available for preparation of the Consolidated Financial Statements, from the Ministry of Finance perspective.

As I said in my previous email, the Public Accounts are overseen by Treasury Board and the Fair Hydro Plan is overseen by the Ministry of Energy.

Therefore if you have any further questions about Public Accounts or the Fair Hydro Plan, we would respectfully request that you contact those ministries.

I hope this helps.

Regards,

Scott

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