

CLIMATE CHANGE – Nov. 30 Technical Briefing

Process Questions:

- 1) **Secretary, last time we were gathered here with Deputy Ministers in the same room it was about a dispute the civil service had with the Auditor General's interpretation of pension assets and accounting treatment – we all know how that ended. Are you trying to pick another fight here?**

We are simply trying to share what we believe to be the facts of the Cap and Trade program and address any questions we believe are likely to arise from the three separate Climate Change reports that have come out in the last week from three officers of the Legislature. Each report has a different perspective – we are here to share information about the program. It is the first time I can remember when we had three reports from three different legislative officers on the same topic. We are available to speak to each report.

- 2) **It is unusual that the Secretary of Cabinet would make himself available to comment about the Auditor General's report. Are you trying to publicly dispute her findings on Cap and Trade? Why are you here?**

I want to be clear – we are here to discuss all three reports, not just the auditor general.

Over the past week, we've seen Climate Change reports put forward by the Auditor General, the Financial Accountability Officer and the Environmental Commissioner. This technical briefing is a way of looking at all three of the reports and providing additional information.

As for my attendance here, Cap and Trade is a major government initiative that I am responsible for. And in the Auditor's report, I am personally referenced, and there is also mention of Cabinet committees.

Optional: *Collaboration, constructive discussion, agree to disagree*

- 3) **I'm just wondering whether any of this is politically motivated – did someone from the Premier's Office force you, or suggest that you come out and address the media? Who is really behind this – because it's highly unusual for the Secretary of Cabinet to be addressing the media?**

Absolutely not, we are here speaking on behalf of the Ontario Public Service. With three reports coming out on the same topic, all within the last week, we felt it important to come forward with our fact-based interpretation of each of the reports. The public service is given the opportunity to comment on these reports and we will continue to do so.

- 4) So all of this is off-the-record and not for attribution – why? If you feel strongly about this, why doesn't someone speak on the record?**

This is like all past technical briefings that I have participated in the past. We are here to provide background information and clarify for you any questions you may have about what has been presented. On Climate Change, Minister Murray speaks on behalf of government.

- 5) Has the civil service lost trust in the Auditor? Does the Auditor General have it wrong?**

We value the work of the Office of the Auditor General. You'll see that in past years we have always listened to her advice and in many, many cases we act on the recommendations she provides. If you read Ministry comments throughout the report, there is lots we support. However, there are several key facts that we believe could be more accurately described.

Optional: *Collaboration, constructive discussion, agree to disagree*

- 6) Why would we trust your word over the opinion of the Auditor General? She is non-political and doesn't have an axe to grind. Isn't this what Auditors do – look at the numbers and provide their opinion of what is and what isn't working in government?**

This is the Auditor's report. We are presenting our interpretation of the facts so that you can share with the public to decide based on the evidence presented.

- 7) Excuse me for borrowing a well-worn quote: "I have deja vu all over again" – are you suggesting Cap and Trade is "too complex" for Ms. Lysyk to understand?**

Not at all – we have three legislative officers table three reports on Climate Change. Having access to a technical briefing would give you the opportunity to ask technical questions that may arise from reading all three reports.

- 8) Secretary, every year we get the AG's report and every year there is a litany of examples of bungled project management, excessive spending or general incompetence. Why can't the public service get things like big IT projects or highway construction and maintenance right?**

If you would like a technical briefing on IT projects, we can arrange such a briefing. In fact, we asked Ed Clark to look at eHealth Ontario. We are here today with the Deputy Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to discuss all three reports.

9) What other audits are you disputing? What other inaccuracies are there?

I want to be clear – We are here to speak to technical facts and questions on three reports related to climate change.

Optional: *Collaboration, constructive discussion, agree to disagree*

10) In the MTO audit, the Auditor seems to be hinting that there is a close relationship between those in the road building industry and officials in the government – How uncomfortable are you with this?

Moderator: *We need to stay on the topic of Cap and Trade. Come see me afterwards and I'll be able to put you in touch with someone who can provide some information*

11) Secretary, while we have you here, what are your thoughts on the charges related to the Sudbury by-election? And how about recent polls that show the Premier's popularity plummeting to an all-time low – what challenges does that present for the civil service.

Moderator: *We need to stay on the topic of Cap and Trade. Come see me afterwards and I'll be able to put you in touch with someone who can provide some information*

12) The Government just announced a big increase for Deputy Ministers. How can the public service get increases when the Auditor General is raising significant concerns?

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