

Statement from Deputy Premier | Auditor General's Report

Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm pleased to be here to today to discuss the Auditor General's annual report.

I'm joined by many of my colleagues whose ministries are examined by this year's annual report:

- Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care
- Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
- Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation; and
- Liz Sandals, President of the Treasury Board

I would like to start with some brief comments before opening it up for questions.

Let me start off by saying that as always, we thank the Auditor for her work this year. The Auditor has brought forward some important recommendations that our government is reviewing carefully.

In many instances work on implementing the auditor's recommendations has already commenced and we have Ministers here today who can provide some information on those steps.

We're pleased to see that the Auditor confirmed the Government's numbers on the investments made to the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan.

In addition the Auditor has also confirmed that the e-health program is an incredibly complex system for a jurisdiction to implement, acknowledged that it's necessary, and that it's creating a significant benefit to Ontarians each and every day. We agree with that.

However, there are also a number of areas where we factually disagree with the Auditor General's conclusions.

Officials continue to take issue with the Auditor's accounting practices as they relate to the Public Accounts. The task force is hard at work assessing the differing views so that we can come to an agreement in the near future.

We also appear to have a philosophical disagreement with the Auditor on climate change and the cap and trade system.

We have distributed materials that outline some of the key facts about the cap and trade program. I know Minister Murray will be able to talk to you more about that.

Also, officials from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Energy are available after these press conferences to go over some of the details of the Climate Change plan.

To conclude, we thank the Auditor General for her report, she has made some very important recommendations. We take these recommendations seriously.

We have already started acting on some of these recommendations and are committing to reporting on the progress of their implantation to the satisfaction of the Auditor.

We would now be happy to take any of your questions.