

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.

- 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?**

I want to be clear – we are not disputing any of the audits. The Auditor General has a job to do and we respect that job.

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.

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?**

No, 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.

- 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? (NEEDS CLARIFICATION)**

This is a technical briefing, and like all technical briefings, 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 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.

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 simply examining what she has to say along with the findings of Environmental Commissioner and the Financial Accountability Officer in their reports on the government's Climate Change plans.

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 – her work speaks for itself. She and her staff have through the years shown an ability to examine numerous government and broader public sector programs and shine a light on what we are doing well, and areas we need improvement. And we value that input.

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?

First, let me say that we appreciate the work of the Auditor General and all the officers of the Legislature and we take their recommendations seriously. The work of government is far-reaching and touches almost every aspect of the average Ontarian's life – providing good healthcare, a solid education system, healthy and safe communities to live in, a justice system that is fair and equitable, a clean environment, the list goes on and on. Can we do better? Absolutely. And that's why reports like the one today from the Auditor General are so important to what we do. They offer opinions and recommendations on how we can do a better job.

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

I want to be clear – we are not disputing any of the audits. The Auditor General has a job to do and we respect that job.

We are here in a technical briefing on Cap and Trade, providing background information and to clarify for you any questions you may have about the program.

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?

We are here in a technical briefing on Cap and Trade, providing background information and to clarify for you any questions you may have about what has been presented.

Or:

Ministry policies are developed in the best interests of Ontarians and are free from any conflict of interest. In the case of MTO, having ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, including industry and professional organizations, helps inform the ministry's decisions about policies and programs and is critical to the successful implementation of infrastructure programs.

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.

We are here to talk about and provide background on the government's Cap and Trade program.

Optional: *Charges – before the court. Polls – don't pay attention to them.*

