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October 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Ministers

SUBJECT: Release of 2015 - 2016 Financial Statements

As you know, the President of the Treasury Board announced last week, there is a delay in the tabling and release of the 2015-2016 Public Accounts due to some on-going with the Auditor General related to an accounting issue that impacts the financial statements of the province.

Today the government will be tabling and releasing the 2015-2016 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements. While these do not constitute the full public accounts, they do set out the government's financial position for the fiscal year. The full public accounts will be tabled and released once the discussions with the Auditor General are complete and she has issued her report on those accounts.

As we have discussed at Deputy Minister's Council, the issue under discussion with the Auditor General relates to the accounting treatment of jointly-sponsored pension plans. In order to provide the clarity necessary to prepare those statements for this fiscal year, and in order to ensure those statements were prepared in a timely manner, the Lieutenant Governor in Council passed a regulation to legislate the accounting treatment of the asset for the 2015-16 financial statements. The one-year treatment provides time for officials to continue to work with the Auditor General's office and third party experts to reach an agreement on the future treatment of the asset.

I want to thank staff in the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance, and the Cabinet Office for the great amount of effort that has gone into the preparation of the financial statements of the province.

In the coming days, there may be some scrutiny around the work of the public service and the interactions with the Office of the Auditor General. It is a fact of life that as public servants, our work is sometimes part of the public debate. I believe our work can and should be subject to the transparency expected of the government, and I have every confidence that staff will continue to conduct themselves in the professional, ethical and neutral manner that has always been the hallmark of the public service.

Sincerely,

Steve Orsini

c. Andrew Bevan