

RE: Minister's Letter Needed - Government House Leader - Delay of Public Accounts

From: "Kearney, Sean (TBS)" <sean.kearney@ontario.ca>
To: "Bromm, William (CAB)" <william.bromm2@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2016 12:13:32 -0400

And sorry but I should have added that time is sadly of the essence.

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From: Kearney, Sean (TBS)
Sent: September-27-16 12:13 PM
To: Bromm, William (CAB)
Subject: FW: Minister's Letter Needed - Government House Leader - Delay of Public Accounts

William, we've been asked to quickly work up a letter that would go from Sandals to Naqvi as GHL to outline the need to delay tabling and prepare for potential point of privilege and debate. Can you let me know if any grave concerns with what I have drafted.

I am writing to advise that due to an outstanding accounting issue that still requires further discussion as between the Office of the Auditor General and Treasury Board Secretariat, there will be a need to extend the deadline for the tabling of Public Accounts.

Pursuant to s.1.0.26(5) of the *Financial Administration Act*, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, the Minister of Finance is to submit the Public Accounts for the past fiscal year to the LGIC within 180 days after the end of the fiscal year, i.e. by September 27, 2016, with the Public Accounts subsequently being laid before the Assembly by the LGIC. This responsibility has been assigned to the President of Treasury Board by OIC under the *Executive Council Act*. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of staff and officials at the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Office of the Auditor General, we are simply not in position to submit the Public Accounts by the end of day today and will require a short extension to provide enough time for the completion of necessary work concerning the outstanding accounting issue and the resultant finalization of the consolidated financial statements of the Province. I have specifically directed officials at Treasury Board Secretariat to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure that the outstanding issue is resolved and that this extraordinary circumstance requiring extension is addressed expeditiously.

As officials at the Treasury Board Secretariat and the Office of the Auditor General complete the finalization of the consolidated financial statements, I can advise that the Government remains on track to meet its fiscal targets.

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Would we be able to get a draft letter as soon as possible to address the following:

- Inform Government House Leader of delay
- Reference the Financial Accountability Act and appropriate section to outline the extra ordinary circumstance
- Followed by language describing the reason for delay – an outstanding accounting issue between TBS officials and Office of the AG
- Finally, a line to say the Minister has directed officials to resolve the issue as quickly as possible and that we are on track to meet our fiscal targets

I would like to have Minister Sandals review the letter as soon as possible so we can make any necessary edits, get it through additional approvals with time to deliver to GHLO prior to the 3pm (ish) Point of Order.

Thanks,
Lauren