Cabinet Retreat

Meeting Objectives:

- Cabinet has an opportunity to provide strategic advice and insight into the development of the 2017 Budget, and potentially identify opportunities for the 2018 Budget
- Ministers of Finance and Treasury Board provide an in-depth update to Cabinet on the state of the economy, the fiscal plan and opportunities for investment
- Premier gets to hear from Cabinet Ministers directly on local priorities and program and ministry level pressures

Context:

By the time we get to the Cabinet Retreat, the following events will have taken place: We will have released the Long Term Report on the Economy; Released the Expert Panel Report on Pension Asset Accounting; determined the extent of additional Hydro Relief; and published our 3rd Quarter Finances. At this point, Cabinet will have had visibility into the state of our fiscal plan, and high level impressions/assumptions about the fiscal architecture, based on the size of hydro relief and impact of pension accounting on the fiscal plan.

Proposed Agenda (9am - 12:30pm):

The Retreat could be an opportunity for a strategic re-set, with hydro and pension accounting in the past, and an opportunity to think clearly about go-forward priorities.

(1) Premier's Opening Comments (10 minutes)

(2) Long Term Report on the Economy (30 minutes)
- Report sets the stage for the problems we need to solve for as a Government. The policies and investments we pursue will pursue/or have been pursuing are for the most part a response to a clear set of forthcoming economic and social challenges. As such, it might be a strategic and useful use of time for Finance to briefly present the 'problem we are solving for'

(3) Fiscal Architecture (30 minutes)
- As per my previous points, at this point Cabinet will have a pretty good sense of the state of our fiscal plan (post-pension/electricity) – whether we balance (or not) will be a known understanding at this point in the process. That said, we will likely need to ask MOF to speak to the transition from 'deficit reduction' to 'deficit management' as Finance will need to publish a three-year plan in the Budget, including how they will come to balance if we don't, or stay in balance if we do.
- MOF should briefly present on the 'gap' we will still need to solve for, provide an update on revenue – both tax and feds (we would be post-fed budget at this point), any tools we will have signaled interest in pursuing (SIN taxes, etc.)
- As it relates to fiscal expenditure strategies that address the gap, TBS should take the lead and speak to internal measures taken to make the plan add-up.

(4) Budget Storyboard and narrative (40 minutes)

This is likely the right time to hand it back to MOF to speak to the proposed Budget story-board -which includes narrative, themes, and overall positioning.
By the time we get to the Cabinet Retreat, we will have spent enough time fine-tuning the Budget narrative and story-board – a good enough place to share with Cabinet Ministers at the retreat.

Steven, by the time Ministers have been briefed on the fiscal picture as noted above, a few ministers will be invited to speak to government's priorities that align with the rest of government's agenda (generally speaking).
Minister Mathews would speak to how her ministry is laying the foundation for creating a highly skilled workforce and how the work will be done in partnership with EDG and MRI (innovation and demand side), MCI (economic immigrants, bridging), Trade (business immigration) and possibly health (Ed Clarke's idea of leveraging our health assets
Minister Chiralli could speak to infrastructure issues and draw in federal-provincial (MIA) and municipal issues (MMA, MOH)
Minister Hoskins would speak to health transformation and draw in a number of ministries that will be aligned with health's work (Senior's, ADO, CYS, MCSS, EDU)
Minister Duguid and Minister Leal would discuss partnering with business large and small and global trade issues etc

One these ministers have completed their presentations, they could move into roundtable discussions and discuss their specific ministry PRRT requests aligned with broader government priorities.

Jacob has noted the above component as follows:
"We could break up the discussion by sub-theme (pillars) and invite a few Ministers to take the lead in presenting the corresponding policy and investment profile, and what it will take to make the 'strategy' and 'narrative' come to life"

(5) Roundtable – Minister/Ministry (40min)
This doesn't/shouldn't take away from the fact that that Budget needs to solve for Ministry mandate letter commitments and the delivery of the multi-year action plan. This will no doubt come up, and perhaps Treasury Board can speak to this when they present on the expenditure plan more broadly. Ministries with more difficult PRRT plans could be invited to speak to the risks associated with pursuing a lower end investment approach to their plans.
Perhaps the goal of the discussion to align policy frame with investment priorities without going into detail about Ministry plans