

MYAP Watch List – November 7, 2017

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Autism

School-based pilots

- EDU announced the implementation of the pilots (via a news bulletin) on October 25th.

New Direct Funding Option

- MCYS is proposing to bring forward a TB/MBC submission on November 28, 2017 on a new Direct Funding Option (DFO) for the OAP. MCYS was directed by Cabinet in May to develop and implement this by Fall 2017.
- The submission will describe the new DFO, transition plan for existing \$8/\$10K clients, determine a revised \$/hr cost and recommend a list of qualifications for DFO-eligible providers to support accountability.
 - MCYS plans to announce the new DFO by the end of the year, and implement beginning in January 2018.
 - MCYS will be working with stakeholders to identify qualifications for DFO providers in order to support parent choice and provider accountability for DFO funding.
- MCYS flagged the pressure for autism has been reduced from the previously reported \$31M to \$27.7M, and are requesting a release from holdback to address this pressure.

ABA Oversight

- A letter from Minister Hoskins requested that HPRAC review options on how/whether to regulate ABA practitioners; HPRAC has been asked to submit their recommendations to the Minister of MOHLTC by January 31, 2018.

Achieving Excellence

Education Assessment Secretariat

- Advisors: continue to meet to discuss the review and begin engaging with key stakeholder groups. The next meeting (Nov 14th) is with administrators, teachers' federations and provincial parent associations.
- Consultations:
 - Draft consultation document to be finalized by November 6; target release Nov 20th.
 - Nine regional engagement sessions are planned (Nov 22-Dec 12 TBC) – afternoon session for area school boards and evening session for parents and the public/broader community. Separate Indigenous & First Nations engagement in late November.

Transformation Steering Committee (TSC)

- Mandate:
 - establish the guiding principles for the transformation approved through Achieving Excellence for the Whole Learner – e.g., curriculum revitalization, new Grade 9 program, and new report cards;
 - scope the key elements of implementation; and
 - provide ongoing central oversight and feedback on the process.
- Membership includes parent and student groups, EQAO, the Ontario Association of Deans of Education, Indigenous partners, People for Education, and education sector unions and federations.
- First meeting November 8, 2017.

Health Updates

2016-17 LHIN Annual Reports

- Tracking to Cab Nov 15th then public release shortly after.
- None of the LHINs were able to meet or be within 10% of provincial target on all 14 performance targets; some do not have a strategy to manage
- Financial statements include \$3.6M in new expenses to implement LHIN renewal; messaging was that there will be administrative savings.
- Annual reports represent 'pre-transition' year spending and performance; that performance targets are intended as 'stretch goals' and that performance/administrative savings is expected to be seen once LHIN renewal is implemented (i.e. likely beginning in the 2018-19 annual reports).

LHIN Renewal Implementation

- LHIN renewal report-back to HESP on November 14th and Cabinet on the 15th (to align with the tabling of the LHIN annual reports), with the intent that the report-back would emphasize the ministry's tactics for improving health system performance now that transition is complete.
- A multi is scheduled for Nov 8 to discuss LHIN Renewal and Performance Reports.
- Separate meeting with CO/PO is scheduled for Nov 8 to discuss how to take a more focused approach on health sector performance through HRT (and other central agency processes as appropriate).

Opioids

- First meeting of the Opioids Emergency Task Force being held this week.
- MOHLTC is developing an integrated marketing campaign to address the Opioid crisis; includes: brochures provided at pharmacies, “wallet cards” on steps to take to address overdoses, and a digital/print campaign.
- CO/PO/MOHLTC bi-weekly updates set up to discuss ongoing progress of the Opioids strategy and address emerging issues and risks.
- Overdose Prevention Sites – last week advocates raised concerns that not enough was being done to support the Moss Park Overdose Prevention Site in order to provide safe injection services.
 - MOHLTC has since delivered warming supplies (e.g., blankets, tent with heater).
 - MOHLTC supported Toronto’s Fred Victor Centre submit an exemption proposal to Health Canada, and MOHLTC officials reached out to Health Canada to encourage an expedited process. MOHLTC is preparing to provide Ottawa Inner-City Overdose Prevention Site with warming supplies.

GreenON/Cap and Trade

GreenON

- Agency mandate letter, setting out expectations for 2018-19 fiscal year, including priority actions and agency performance, sent out.
- MOU between MOECC and GreenON finalized.
- HR consultant onboard. Insurance agreement executed.
- Programs:
 - Thermostat program - rollout to general public starting November 6.
 - Target GHG+ program – Transfer Payment Agreement and program design close to final. Preparation for program launch mid-November.
 - Low-carbon tech incentives – launch/announcement early December.
 - Market transformation – TB/MBC November 28 for program design.

Cap and Trade

- Linking agreement with Quebec and California signed at Joint Cabinet meeting in late September 2017. MOECC tracking to TB November 14 and LRC November 20 with related regulatory amendments; markets would be linked as of January 1, 2018 with first joint auction planned for February 2018.
- Financial Approvals/Implementation
 - First Cap and Trade Auction (March 2017) raised \$472 million.
 - Second Cap and Trade Auction (June 2017) raised \$504 million.
 - Third Auction occurred September 6 and raised \$526 million in.
- Release of funds associated with the third auction approved Oct 31/Nov 1.
- Continued heightened stakeholder interest, including from the Auditor General and the FAO, in how government invests cap and trade proceeds. ECO report release expected in the coming weeks.

LTEP Release

- Cabinet approved the final LTEP document and OEB/IESO implementation directives on October 25.
- LTEP and implementation directives released publicly October 26. Media coverage relatively neutral and primarily focused on the rate outlooks.
- IESO and OEB Implementation Plans due to Minister of Energy January 31, 2018 for approval.
- Risks: October 17 release of AG report on Fair Hydro Plan may place additional scrutiny on the LTEP and outlooks. Need for continual alignment between LTEP and CCAP work.

Fair Hydro Plan

- OIC authorizing the Ministers of Energy and Finance to issue the provincial guarantee under the plan was approved by Cabinet on September 27. Guarantee agreement expected to be finalized soon.
- October 30 - ENERGY received LRC/Cabinet approval of additional regulatory amendments related to implementation of the Fair Hydro plan (i.e. FSM fees structure/OEB oversight, and addressing accounting of carrying costs).
- OPG planning to be in market by early December 2017. Week long marketing exercise would be followed by 3 day closing period. Energy assessing need for possible technical briefing after completion of this tranche.
- Hydro One pilot on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment expected to start in November.
- ENERGY is tracking to LRC/Cabinet December 11 with a regulatory amendment on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment for non-Hydro One customers, and further regulatory amendments to address implementation issues. Possibility that one set of amendments may need to be in place prior to OPG going to market in early December. Energy to advise on risks soon.

- Ongoing work with agencies, LDCs and partners (including TBS/MOF/CO) on implementation requirements continues (biweekly meetings).
- Auditor General released a special report on the Fair Hydro Plan on October 17. ENERGY provided a response to the AG and all remaining outstanding materials October 26.
- Risks: October 17 release of AG report on Fair Hydro Plan may place additional scrutiny on the Fair Hydro Plan generally.

Corrections and Strategy for Safer Ontario / Police Oversight Reform

Sapers Report/Corrections

- The Independent Advisor on Corrections Reform (Howard Sapers) released his final report on October 3. This report builds on Sapers' interim report from spring 2017. Collectively, the two reports provide 125 recommendations to address the use of segregation and long-term corrections reform, including next steps on healthcare transformation.
- On September 26, the OHRC filed an expedited contravention application with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, alleging that the Ontario government breached the *Jahn* settlement. MCSCS responded to the OHRC's application on October 24, and **draft minutes of settlement are in the final stages of approvals at MCSCS.**
- MCSCS has agreed to report back to the Ombudsman every six months on its progress in addressing the *Out of Side, Out of Mind* report recommendations. MCSCS submitted its first report back on October 20.
- The corrections reform framework and proposed legislation went to HESP October 17, and CAB October 25, and is now tracking to TB/MBC November 14 and LRC December 11.
- MCSCS is targeting the introduction of new corrections legislation in December 2017. MOHLTC will report back on a long-term healthcare transformation strategy in spring 2018.
- PO, CO, MCSCS, TBS, and Leg Counsel meet weekly, and monthly with MOHLTC, to discuss the proposed corrections reform framework, financial approvals and legislation.

Strategy for a Safer Ontario/Reform

- **Bill 175, the Safer Ontario Action, 2017, was introduced on November 2, 2017. The bill is expected to be referred to committee after 2nd reading and committee deliberations are expected to take place through December and January.**
- On October 18, 2017, MCSCS and MAG received Cabinet approval on a policing omnibus bill, which includes new legislation to address Strategy

for a Safer Ontario (SSO), police oversight, missing persons, and forensics oversight, as well as legislative amendments to the *Coroners Act*.

- PO, CO, MCSCS, MAG, and Leg Counsel continue to meet weekly to discuss progress and next steps on SSO and police oversight.
- MCSCS continues to engage the IPC Office regarding data collection provisions in bill 175.

Cannabis

Recent Developments

- On September 20, the Minister of Finance indicated that potential uniformity of pricing and taxation across Canada is being considered. A potential price point of \$10 per gram was noted in media reports.
- MOHLTC Modernized Smoke Free Ontario (SFO) submission was approved by Cabinet on Sep 27; this included an approach for medical cannabis places of use (mirroring SFO approach).
- On October 19, MCSCS had over 100 law enforcement and public health experts along with First Nations representatives and the federal government participated in a Cannabis Legalization Enforcement Summit.
- Letter received from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) outlining its position on the sale and distribution of cannabis. AMO indicated its preference for a private retail distribution model with municipal licensing to allow communities to benefit from the new market.
- On October 27, letters were sent to all municipalities in Ontario to share the next steps for establishing retail stores. The process will be led by the LCBO, working closely with the government and local communities.
- On November 3, the LCBO announced the first 14 cities that will receive retail stores:
 - Barrie
 - Brampton
 - Hamilton
 - Kingston
 - Kitchener
 - London
 - Mississauga
 - Ottawa
 - Sault Ste. Marie
 - Sudbury
 - Thunder Bay
 - Toronto
 - Vaughan
 - Windsor

Framework Implementation

- The legislation was approved by LRC and Cabinet on October 30, 2017. It was introduced in the Legislature on November 1, 2017.

Other Provinces/Municipalities

- New Brunswick: announced that it has created a new Crown corporation to oversee the sale of recreational marijuana, and signed deals with two suppliers; NB Finance Minister signed MOUs with Organigram and Canopy Growth Corp. to secure a supply for the NB market in time for the July 2018 launch.
- Alberta: has yet to make a decision but has narrowed options to **government-owned and operated stores**, which would be consistent with Ontario or licensed and **regulated private sales** where the government would license and regulate private retailers. Alberta has extensive experience with this approach as it's consistent with how alcohol is sold in Alberta.
- These are the only provinces that committed to or signaled a retail approach publicly.
- September 18, media reports that the City of Toronto's Licensing Committee is expected to recommend Council support the plan announced by Ontario and request support for enforcement and consult on issues including home grow

Transit and Transportation

RER procurement

- Procurement for enabling works ongoing until end of 2017 (13 AFP procurements and several traditional procurements).
- On June 14, 2017, Metrolinx issued the Notice of Commencement for the GO Electrification Environmental Assessment Transit Project Assessment Process.
- On July 21, 2017 Metrolinx issued an RFQ for RER operation and maintenance services.
- On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx issued a notice that outlines possible changes to the RER Operations and Maintenance Request for Qualifications process. Metrolinx is considering a design/build/ finance/operate/maintain (“DBFOM”) project delivery model, and intends to extend the existing RFQ deadline by approximately four weeks. An Addendum to the current RFQ is planned to be issued in late fall.

Hydrogen

- MTO/Metrolinx updating RER procurement strategy and explore viability of alternative propulsion technologies (TB/MBC Fall 2017).
- On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for concept design work to show how a hydrogen fuel cell system could be integrated into a Bi-level Electric Multiple Unit train. The Hydrail Feasibility Study is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2017.
 - MTO and Metrolinx will hold a Hydrogen Symposium on November 16, 2017, which will gather industry leaders together to discuss the potential application of hydrogen fuel cell technology to electrify the GO rail network.

Rail Rationalization

- Negotiations between Metrolinx and CN for Master Agreement on rail rationalization starting in Fall 2017 (TBC).

- EA for rail rationalization to begin in June 2018 (TBC).
- Discussions to be held between MOF and MTO on emerging tax issues related to CN

Regional Transportation Plan

- On September 14, 2017, the Metrolinx Board of Directors adopted and published a draft 2041 updated Regional Transportation Plan. MTO is coordinating inter-ministerial feedback in the draft RTP. Final plan expected to be adopted in Dec 2017.

High Speed Rail

- On October 17/18, 2017, MTO received TB/MBC and Cabinet approval to:
 - Proceed with Stage 1 (Planning) for High Speed Rail (HSR) with an estimated cost of \$147M to \$212M over six years, proposed to be offset from unallocated funding for the Outside Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (OGTHA) component of the Moving Ontario Forward plan; and
 - Establish a short-term (up to three years) HSR Planning Advisory Board to provide strategic advice, engage with the private sector, build partnerships and raise the profile of HSR in Ontario and around the world.
- The HSR Planning Advisory Board will consist of 9-member board (including a Chair and Vice Chair).
- The HSR Planning Advisory Board would be established in late 2017 with the Chair being appointed first and the members shortly after.
- On October 23, 2017, the Premier spoke at the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber of Commerce and announced the establishment of the HSR Planning Advisory Board to provide strategic support to HSR.
 - The news release also announced the launch of a website with details of what high speed rail will mean for people in Southwestern Ontario and across the province, and how people can provide feedback and input. Consultation dates and other input opportunities would be posted on this website as they are scheduled.

GTA West

- On May 29, 2017, the GTA West Advisory Panel provided its final report to the Minister of Transportation.
 - The Advisory Panel recommended not proceeding with the existing EA for a new highway corridor in the Northwest GTA.
- In response to the panel's recommendations, MTO, partnering with MMA and MOECC, is recommending an interim approach to corridor protection, together with a commitment to develop and propose a longer-term approach.
 - A 9-12 month joint corridor study (led by MTO and the Independent Electricity System Operator) for protection of a multipurpose infrastructure corridor. The study would identify lands that should be protected to allow for future infrastructure planning and EAs.
 - Upon conclusion of this study, the ministries would bring forward a proposed corridor and longer term protection approach.
- The ministry's proposed approach will be presented at Cabinet as an information item on November 15, 2017. The Minister would publicly announce this approach shortly thereafter.

Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs

Bill 148-*Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017* (FWBJA)

- Amended Bill passed Second Reading on October 18, 2017 and was referred back to Standing Committee. The government will submit further motions to amend the bill. **Motions are due November 8, 2017.**
- Passage is expected before the House rises, with LRA and most ESA changes coming into force as of January 1, 2018 except minimum wage (see section below), equal pay (April 1, 2018), Scheduling (January 1, 2019) and exclusions (January 1, 2018 / January 1, 2019).
- MOL is proposing a package of transitional, consequential and substantive regulations for LRC approval on **December 11, 2017**, with a proposed coming into force date of January 1, 2018.
- The exemptions review was launched on October 18th by way of news release and postings to the Regulatory Registry. Phase 1 of the review includes eight occupations under the ESA. MOL is planning to launch a second phase of the review in January 2018.

Minimum Wage

- October 1, 2017 the general minimum wage increased to \$11.60 per hour following the Consumer Price Index (CPI) model.
- Pending passage of Bill 148, the general minimum wage will increase to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018 and \$15 per hour on January 1, 2019. Special minimum wage rates would increase by the same proportion.
- Ministries, TBS and CO are working on assessing the impact of the minimum wage increase on the OPS and BPS. Most ministries started compiling this information for their PRRT submissions.
- EDU received TB/MBC October 17 / Cabinet October 18 approval for \$12.7 million in funding to address 2017-18 minimum wage impacts in the child care sector.

Key Risks

- Potential for unforeseen or unintended impacts given the scope of measures, timing of the implementation and lack of full stakeholder input on some aspects of the proposal (such as, minimum wage).