MINISTRY OF ENERGY
SPEAKING REMARKS – DEPUTY MINISTER
2018-19 PROGRAM REVIEW, RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION
Draft: December 7, 2017

Good afternoon.

I am pleased to be here today to present the Ministry of Energy's multi-year plan.

We have put forward a plan that will deliver upon the ministry's mandate and commitments, including funding important initiatives, while staying within the preliminary allocation that was provided to us.

In fact, we did better than that - we managed to accomplish this while contributing significant savings to the fiscal plan.

However, based on TBS recommendations our initiatives are not being fully funded despite being offset from within.

Today there are three main things I want to focus on:

First, is the Long-Term Energy Plan's commitment to deliver the International Energy Demonstration Fund pilot program:

While, we're pleased to see funding for the LTEP Smart Grid Fund is recommended for approval, the decision for LTEP's International Energy Demonstration Fund is being recommended to be deferred.

The Ministry is asking the Board to approve program funding as part of PRRT rather than defer it because this is not a new initiative and we have provided the offsets for it.

Similar to Smart Grid Fund, the International Energy Demonstration Fund was approved at Cabinet this summer and already announced in the Province's Long-Term Energy Plan.

This approval will allow the Ministry to move forward with implementation of the program and meet our Long-Term Energy Plan commitments.

This is a $10.5 million program over five years, with funding of $1.5 million in 2018-19.

Second, is resources needed for the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan:

The Ministry has been asked to administer the $1.6 billion in transfer payment programs for the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan. This requires resources to cover a variety of program delivery functions to provide the proper level of support and due diligence.

As it stands, the Ministry has already been risk-managing positions to support program delivery.

Without dedicated resources, we would need to reassign existing staff from their core policy work. This would compromise the delivery on of both policy work and program administration.

While we understand the decision on FTEs are being deferred to wrap-up, we hope the Board recognizes that a sector of this magnitude requires appropriate staffing.

The funding needed for these FTES is only $4.4 million, or just over a quarter percent of the overall allocation for these transfer payment programs.

Third, is pressures for legislative entitlement programs that are not fully funded:

We are asking the Board to fund the out-year pressures for these programs.

The funding needed for these program helps some of the most vulnerable consumers and shrinking the funding sends the wrong message to our stakeholders.

In closing, we recognize and appreciate the hard choices and equally hard decisions that Treasury Board officials must make as part of this process, which is why we submitted a plan that would fully fund our commitments and pressures but also provide significant savings to the fiscal plan.

I ask for this committee's support to fulfill the requests the Ministry of Energy put forward today, so we can best deliver on the government's mandate. Thank you.