

TBS Issues Review for Thursday April 27

From: "Bigley, Jane (TBS)" <jane.bigley@ontario.ca>
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Attachments: Ottawa to announce new plan to tackle troubled Phoenix payroll system.docx (20.19 kB)

Good morning!
*Here is the Treasury Board Secretariat Issues Review.
Cabinet Top Issues for today will be sent later.*

There is no mention of Minister Sandals sighted today.

PRE-BUDGET:

*The Niagara Falls Review (Canadian Press) reports government will be releasing its first balanced budget in a decade, with new spending measures that will be focused on pocketbook issues. Premier Kathleen Wynne recently revealed a "Fair Hydro Plan" and "Fair Housing Plan," as well as a basic income pilot project. Ontario's finance minister Charles Sousa, has already announced that the budget will contain new spending to benefit seniors, students, parents, caregivers and patients. Sousa has said the budget will include a public transit tax credit for seniors 65 and older. He also promised a "booster shot" for health care, especially to deal with overcrowding in hospitals. Ministers announced \$20 million in funding to increase the respite services for unpaid caregivers who help friends and family members. The government is also launching an initiative to create 40,000 job training placements and internships over three years for students of all ages and recent graduates, as part of a \$190-million Career Kick-Start Strategy. Sousa made sure to point out the investments they have already made in the innovation sector. Moreover, \$200 million will go toward creating 24,000 child-care spaces and subsidies for families for about 60 per cent of those spots – as part of the government's promise last year to create 100,000 more licensed spaces. Cuts to hydro bills will add nearly \$2 million to the budget. Regardless of the balanced budget this year, Ontario will have a debt of more than \$300 billion. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*QP Briefing reports that during Question Period yesterday Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown 'cited the Financial Accountability Officer's report from January that said that, in order to balance the books, the government would have to cut health-care spending, its largest expense, by \$400 million in 2016-17, \$900 million in 2017-18, and \$1.5 billion in 2018-19. "Brown also pointed to a pension accounting spat with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk over whether the province should count \$10.7 billion worth of pension surpluses as an asset despite not having unilateral access as another "red flag". **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*The Ottawa Sun's David Reevely (A10) writes the budget will 'set the stage 'for the provincial election. 'The Liberals think they have the provincial finances in hand. They've done the really dirty work and now it's time to use the government the way they want to. Starting Thursday.' **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*CBC news reports on what to look for in today's budget, particularly the "booster" shot for health care. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

COMPENSATION and HR:

*CKCO and CFTO report on the potential strike. CFTO spoke with OPSEU president Warren Thomas said "don't panic yet". **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

The Windsor Star (A2) reports the nurses unionized group is facing a possible strike at

Chrysler's Windsor Assembly Plant. There are 16 nurses who work there and only three of them are full time. The issues here is whether or not the plant's 6,500 employees will honour their picket line because that would cause a work disruption at the manufacturing plant. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

TREASURY BOARD:

The Globe and Mail reports (A1) President Trump has backed off a plan to start the process of withdrawing from the North American free-trade agreement after emergency talks with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Welland Tribune (C12) reports premier Wynne is encouraging all the provinces to unite in the fight against any softwood lumber tariffs. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Toronto Star (A1) reports Canadian businesses are moving money out of tax havens – ending a five-year run when more than \$120 billion was stashed in the 10 most popular low-tax or no-tax countries. The newly released Statistics Canada numbers provide the most concrete evidence yet that the Panama Papers may have had an effect on the use of tax havens to minimize corporate taxes. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Globe and Mail reports (A6) that the Business Council of Canada is urging Canada to start preparing to cut tax rates because proposed cuts in the US may create a competitive disadvantage. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Niagara Falls Review reports (A1) that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority acting CAO has stepped down. Mark Brickell will take the place of Peter Graham, effective Friday. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

I.T. and OPEN GOVERNMENT:

CBC.ca reports Ottawa is launching a new initiative to tackle the federal government's troubled Phoenix pay system. A government source confirms the plan includes a two-year, \$140-million funding reallocation strategy to help departmental officials get employees paid on time. The source also confirms Ralph Goodale, the current public safety minister and the most senior member of the Liberal cabinet, has been tapped to head up a task force to examine Phoenix-related problems. The government will be offering up to \$200 to employees who had to hire an accountant, or incurred fees because of payroll problems. Employees must apply for the reimbursement, with details on how to be confirmed later today. **Article attached**

Metro reports the city of Toronto's slow progress on open data is 'frustrating' some tech advocates. . **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT and FYI:

Canadian press reports government has paid a \$28-million award that a NAFTA tribunal ruled was owed to a wind power company over a provincial offshore wind moratorium. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

CALENDAR:

Annual Ontario Natural Resources Forum
8:00 a.m. / Toronto: The 2nd annual Ontario Natural Resources Forum. 8 a.m., Minister's Breakfast panel discussion with Natural Resources and Forestry Minister Kathryn McGarry, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister David Zimmer; 9 a.m., Minister McGarry takes part in another panel discussion; 10:45 a.m., Chief Isadore Day, Ontario Regional Chief, takes part in a panel discussion; noon, keynote address by Craig Alexander, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist, The Conference Board of Canada; 2:30 p.m., closing remarks. For the full program, go to www.ontarionaturalresourcesforum.com/program/. (Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen St. W.)

MPP Clark to welcome Girls Government to Queen's Park

3:15 p.m. / Toronto: MPP Steve Clark welcomes Girls Government to Queen's Park (Media Studio, Queen's Park)

Minister Sousa to table the provincial budget **IMMR will monitor and follow up with media coverage***

4:00 p.m. / Toronto: Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa tables the provincial budget. (media lock-up at 8 a.m.)

The Ontario Cap and Trade Forum

Toronto: The Ontario Cap and Trade Forum, featuring 50+ speakers from industry, government, and finance offering expert views and updates on key topics for cap and trade participants. Visit

<http://capandtrade.canadianclean.com/> for full program details. Through April 28. (Allstream Centre)

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