

TBS Media Calls - March 2

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Hi all,

We had three media requests today. Both will be sent next week but I want to flag for everyone that they are coming up.

Let me know if you have any questions.

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1. Globe and Mail - Matthew McClearn

Note: This media response is in collaboration with Energy. We are waiting for a response from our officials – after that we will connect on the response with PO and Energy.

Request:

Who were the senior decision-makers at Treasury Board responsible for the accounting/financial structure with the Fair Hydro Plan? And what were their roles in establishing the accounting/financial structure?

The Hansard of the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Estimates on Oct. 24, 2017 indicates Ms. Sophie Kiwala said the following:

Our plan has been approved by the peers of the Auditor General at some of Canada's top accounting firms, including Ernst and Young, KPMG and Deloitte. In the development of the fair hydro plan, we also consulted with numerous third-party advisers in the application of accounting standards. IESO's management, IESO's audit committee, IESO's board of directors, IESO's external auditor and the Office of the Provincial Controller all support this accounting treatment.

(Emphasis added.)

Who at the Office of the Provincial Controller signed off on the financial/accounting structure of the Fair Hydro Plan? What form did that approval take?

2. CBC – Claudine Brule

CBC reached out to interview the Minister and the Chief Digital Officer on women in politics for International Women's Day. Minister McMahon will conduct her interview after

QP on Monday with the reporter. I connected the reporter to our officials to coordinate the interview with the Chief Digital Officer.

3. Ottawa Citizen – Jacquie Miller

Request:

Note: This is in response to a previous media request.

I'd like to appeal the decision not to release this information.

I completely understand the individual organizations make the final decision on whether to adopt the programs.

But would you be able to please provide an explanation for why it is "inappropriate" for the government to release information about:

-which organizations have received permission to post their programs? Your answer says organizations must decide "whether or when" to post. If I understand it correctly, the organizations have 3 days after provincial approval to post. Some of the school boards had to hold special meetings to meet that deadline. Presumably, for organizations that have posted their programs, the intent of posting them is to receive public comments. How, then, is it improper for the government to release the names of organizations that are asking for public comments? And even if for some reason an organization decides not to post after receiving approval to do so (why that would happen I'm not sure, but I suppose it's possible), what would be the public harm or "inappropriate" in revealing that the organization has approval to post? Anyone from the public would still have to find the posting to get the details. If it wasn't posted for some reason, the government has not revealed anything about the organization other than the fact that it submitted a plan and received approval to post it for public comment.

-Why is it inappropriate for the government to reveal which organizations have had their compensation programs approved to be finalized after public comments?

The "business decisions" are of course made by the organizations, but the provincial government has a key role in this whole process by giving approvals at various stages. Can you explain how releasing this information is interfering with the business decisions made by these organizations? Or maybe there is some other interpretation of the word "inappropriate" that I am not understanding?

As it stands now, here is the information I have: the provincial government has approved 74 executive compensation plans that can be finalized after receiving public comments, and 69 programs to be posted for public comment, but Treasury Board Secretariat says it would be "inappropriate" to share with the public the names of the organizations.

I am trying my best to understand this process and report fairly and fully. Which is why I am respectfully requesting that whoever was responsible for making the decision that this information should not be revealed please reconsider and take into account whether it is in the public interest, and in the spirit of a process that was supposed to be transparent and open to public comment as well as closely monitored by the province.

Perhaps this is a question better directed to the minister's office? Please let me know if that's the case and I'd be glad to make my appeal there.

It's doubly confusing to me because earlier in the process, the education ministry released exactly that information – names of the organizations that had received approval to post and had been finalized— with no problem. I was just looking for a more up to date list that went beyond school boards, and instead of asking individual ministries thought it would be better to direct my question to Treasury Board, since it's co-

ordinating everything. So some of the information I'm requesting has already been released by one of the ministries, which didn't find it inappropriate to make public.

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