MYAP Watch List – October 31, 2017

1. Autism
2. Basic Income
3. Income Security Reform
4. Seniors
5. Cap and Trade/ GreenON
6. LTEP / Fair Hydro
7. Corrections /SSO
8. Cannabis
9. Transit
10. NAFTA
11. Small Business
12. Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs

Autism

School-Based Pilots

- In-school autism therapy pilots are proceeding, with some modifications based on feedback from the Ontario Autism Program Advisory Committee:

Feedback from Committee	Change in Approach
EDU should consider an alternative to the Geneva Centre for Autism as the provider for Education Assistant training.	Proceed with Geneva Centre for Autism as the training provider for the pilot duration, but require the independent evaluator of the pilot explore alternatives for future roll-out.
Should be more expertise/support from certified professionals in schools during pilots.	Include 1 Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) or equivalent in each pilot board.
A separate, dedicated space for the delivery of therapy may stigmatize students with autism.	Require boards (through transfer payment agreements) to report back on how they are promoting equity, inclusion and access to services as part of the pilots, to reduce the stigma from the dedicated space model.

- OAP advisory committee members expressed support for the revised approach.

- EDU sent memos to OAP Advisory Committee, the Council of Ontario Directors of Education, and EDU's Initiatives Committee (unions/federations) on Oct 3rd outlining the changes

- All 18 pilot boards confirmed ongoing participation following these modifications.
    - boards with dedicated space (11 boards) will begin implementing immediately
    - EA training and new BCBA oversight aspects of the pilots (all 18 school boards) begin 2nd semester (January/February for most)

Ontario Autism Coalition Protest

- On October 5, 2017, the Ontario Autism Coalition (led by Bruce McIntosh, who is on the Ontario Autism Program Advisory Committee) announced it will be organizing an "Autism Doesn't End At School

Protest" on October 26. Please see below for a description of the protest from the Facebook event page:

> "Join us at Queen's Park as we send a loud message to the Premier and the Minister of Education that the current special education system in Ontario is failing our kids--and kids with other exceptionalities, too. We'll shine a light on the urgent need for **intensive ABA in classrooms, better teacher training, and the lack of accountability for the spending of special education money**. We want to call attention to the damage caused to our kids by the lack of sufficient EA support, the need for better EA training, and **the urgent need for an Education Accessibility standard**. Hear from prominent disability activists, students on the spectrum, political leaders and parents. It's time to get loud!"
>
> https://www.facebook.com/events/352371458538124/

- CO has followed up with EDU on its issue management plan in response to this protest, and will advise. EDU MO is in conversations with the OAC at present.

ABA Oversight

- MCYS tracking a report back on options to guarantee the qualifications of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) practitioners to October 17 HESP.
    - These measures could help ensure that the public has access to safe, quality autism services; help improve outcomes for children; and facilitate potential integration of ABA practitioners into schools in the future.

- MCYS have asked that the report back be delayed to 2018, to accommodate advice from the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC).
    - HPRAC will be reviewing options on how/whether to regulate ABA practitioners, and will be asked to submit their recommendations to the Minister of MOHLTC on January 31, 2018.

Basic Income

Phase 1 Enrollment/Implementation

- Ministry targeting enrolment of 400 in Hamilton and Thunder Bay during Phase 1 (Spring-Fall)
    - As of Oct 5, 2017, 365 individuals were enrolled in the pilot and are expected to receive an October 25th payment
    - This was an increase over the September payment, which included 247 individuals.
    - The ministry is implementing a plan to improve BI enrollment, which includes targeted public outreach and streamlining the enrollment process.

- On October 4th, Ministers Jaczek and Milczyn provided a public announcement on current status of BI, noting:
    - 400 people will receive basic income in October
        - *NOTE: this is a forecast of the ministry's enrollment expectations. As noted above, BI Pilot currently has 365 individuals enrolled for payment in October*.
    - Governance structure in place
    - 3rd party evaluator selected
    - Lindsay Pilot starting enrollment next week

Phase 2

- MCSS-PRSD working towards target of 2,000 recipients plus 2,000 individuals in the control group, evenly split between Ham/TB. PO/CO monitoring given Phase 1 experience.

- Launch of the Lindsay BI site in November 2017 (enrollment starting next week). Payments beginning to flow in December, targeting an additional 2,000 recipients.

First Nations Pilot

- Pilot to be implemented by February 2018; co-creation process, proposed approach and site location in development
    - Targeting 300 participants

    - Tracking to Dec 7 MTPRSI / Dec 13 Cabinet
- Chiefs of Ontario (COO) advised that the Joint MCSS-First Nations Table was unable to meet on September 28-29, 2017 to discuss the First Nations Basic Income Pilot due to scheduling conflicts.
- MCSS-PRSD will set up a face-to-face meeting with the JMCSS-FNTSS members (Date TBC).

Income Security Reform

Working Groups' Report and Plan for Release

- MCSS has received a draft final copy of the ISR Working Groups final report:
    - outlines the Working Groups' recommendations for reform, significant investments/transformation and a proposed sequence for implementation over 10 years
    - There was a meeting this week with George Thompson that included senior PO, the P, the Minister and MO. CO understands there was discussion and agreement on the issues the report is trying to resolve and acknowledgement of a phased response.

- MCSS tracking to MT:PRSI on October 16 to seek approval to release the report. MCSS will be directed to report back in December/January with detailed analysis and an implementation plan.
    - MCSS working to develop phased implementation plan, outlining the short-, medium-, and long-term phases of reform.
    - Short-term phase to focus on modest investments that could be taken within the first three years that will have an impact on clients (expected to include cost estimates over the long-term)
        - MCSS has shared an initial phased approach, costed at $210M, $880M and $1.40B over next three years (in comparison to ISR Roadmap recommendations of $810M, $2.4B, $3.2B over first three years)

- Next Step to confirm approach for releasing the report (e.g. "receive" vs. "accept").

Seniors

Recent Developments

- During the week of Oct 2nd, Premier's Office provided updated direction on the release of a Seniors Strategy in Fall 2017:
    - MSA and MOHLTC are to collaborate on a discussion paper that highlights government's overarching goal: a commitment to supporting seniors at all stages as they age, by providing the supports and tools they need to stay independent, connected, healthy and safe.
    - The discussion paper will be released a few weeks in advance of FES (targeting end of October).
    - The discussion paper will include announcing some new investments, but significant new investments in LTCHs will be deferred to a later date.
    - MSA will proceed direct to Cabinet on Oct 18th for approval to release the discussion paper and the new initiatives to be included.
- This direction has been relayed to MSA and MOHLTC.
- CO convened multicorners with MSA, MOHLTC, TBS and MOF to finalize the list of new initiatives to be included in the discussion paper, subject to final confirmation from TBS/MOF about availability of room in fiscal plan.

Next Steps

- PO to confirm support for a small number of remaining potential initiatives under consideration.
- CO to continue to engage PO, TBS and MOF to confirm list of initiatives to be announced and funded through FES.
- MSA to finalize updated Cabinet deck and circulate to ministries for final confirmation of support- week of October 10th.
- CO to finalize proposed minute and circulate to partner ministries, PO for support.
- MSA and MOHLTC continue to work with CO/PO Comms on the development of a discussion paper

- CO to convene another multicorners with MOHLTC week of Oct 10th to discuss ongoing modelling regarding a potential wait list guarantee for LTCHs, to inform potential wording in the discussion paper about future investments.

Key Risks

- Timing: limited time to finalize Cabinet materials in advance of October 18th, and limited time to draft, finalize, translate public-facing discussion paper. CO is working closely with MSA, MOHLTC, and PO to support expedited development of materials.
- Financial approvals: Final confirmation still required on whether financial resources are available to support proposed new investments. CO is actively working with TBS and MOF to analyze financial impacts and confirm which initiatives can be funded.

Cap and Trade / GreenON

GreenON

- Agency mandate letter, setting out expectations for 2018-19 fiscal year, including priority actions and agency performance, to be sent out week of October 31.
- Draft MOU between MOECC and GreenON prepared and in review process.
- HR consultant onboard. Insurance expected to be in place shortly.
- Discussions on expanding thermostat program underway with IESO and GreenON.
- Target GHG+ program – Transfer Payment Agreement and program design close to final. Preparation for program launch mid-November.

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.
- MOECC tracking to Oct 31 TB/MBC for release of funds associated with the third auction. Also presenting information item on GGRA spending to date.
- 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.
- ENERGY will return to LRC/Cabinet on October 30 to seek approval of additional regulatory amendments related to implementation of the Fair Hydro plan.
- Hydro One pilot on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment expected to start in November. ENERGY is tracking to LRC/Cabinet in December with a regulatory amendment on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment for non-Hydro One customers.
- 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 is preparing draft minutes of settlement.
- 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

- 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.*

- The policing bill has been translated and is ready for introduction as of October 30. Stakeholder engagement in the lead up to introduction continues. Introduction planned for November 1 or 2.
- 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 the policing bill.

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.

Framework Implementation

- Remaining Approvals:
    - Legislation: October 30th (delayed from Oct 16), CAB Oct 30th (same day)
    -
    - **Intro – November 1**

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

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.

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.

NAFTA

Recent Developments

- Round Four of the NAFTA modernization talks were held October 11 – 17.
- Negotiations were challenging with proposals from the US for a sunset clause; rules of origin requiring 50% American content and 85% North American regional value content for auto manufacturing; a weakening of dispute settlement provisions; and an end to Canada's supply management system for dairy, eggs, and poultry
- On October 14, Premier Wynne reiterated the importance of free trade and open borders and upheld Ontario's role in building an internationally competitive North American auto sector
- On October 15, Premier Wynne reaffirmed support for Ontario's farmers and producers, and defended the integrity of Canada's supply management system.
- On October 25, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross stated "We're asking two countries to give up some privileges that they have enjoyed for 22 years. And we're not in a position to offer anything in return,"

Next Steps

- Mexico will host the fifth round of talks in Mexico City from November 17-21, 2017. Additional negotiating rounds will be scheduled in 2018.
- Cabinet report back in November (tbd) with update, and any adjustments to the negotiating mandate (as required).

Key Risks

- NAFTA renegotiation involves existing trade rules within North America, creating a higher level of risk compounded by the greater level of uncertainty that surrounds these negotiations.

Small Business Strategy

Recent Developments

- Cabinet approved the multi-point strategy, including broad measures and targeting initiatives for the agriculture sector and youth employment on October 25
- Bill 154, Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape 2017 Act was introduced on September 14. Consideration of the Bill at Standing Committee on Justice Policy began on October 19
- On October 16, the government announced better access to government support services and procurement opportunities, as part of Small Business Week.

Current Status

- Ministry of Finance expected to include additional measures for small business as part of the Fall Economic Statement
- Small Business Strategy includes: transitional employment supports for youth, an edible horticulture plan, mainstreet business supports (e.g. BIA improvement fund), peer-to-peer access to capital, improving procurement opportunities, and Small Business Access. The narrative will incorporate existing government programs and initiatives e.g. the Global Trade Strategy, and programs supporting development in the north.

Key Risks

- Both the Premier and Minister Responsible for Small Business have been recently quoted in the media as making commitments to bring forward measures this fall which will reduce burdens on small businesses. There is a risk that if these measures are not significant and wide-spread, they will not meet the expectations of small businesses.

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.
- 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 in December 2017, with a proposed coming into force date of January 1, 2018.
- The exemptions review was launched on October 18th by way of new 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 have 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).