Ontario

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE: MINISTRY APPROVAL FORM

LRC Tracking #: OICNA-13188
EVista Tracking #: SUB-NAOIC-2017-01004

Ministry of Finance

Capital Investment Plan Act

Order in Council

Profile at a Glance

Priority: Consequential to Commitment
Public Interest: Low
Key Stakeholder Interest: Very high
New Costs/Burdens: Yes for Government
New Savings/Opportunities: Yes for Government

Proposed Items for Review

1. Approval of Order in Council ("OIC") under section 22 of the *Capital Investment Plan Act, 1993 ("CIPA"),* authorizing the Minister of Finance to make a loan to the Ontario Financing Authority ("OFA").

Approvals required prior to LRC

	Committee and date	Cabinet Date
Policy		
TB/MBC	LRC, June 27, 2017	June 27, 2017

Deputy Minister Date

Minister Date

CONFIDENTIAL CABINET DOCUMENT
LRC Ministry Approval Form – version 10.02

s. 1 Proposal and Context

- Approval is being sought for an OIC under section 22 of *Capital Investment Plan Act, 1993* (“CIPA”), which will authorize the Minister of Finance to provide loan(s) to the Ontario Financing Authority (“OFA”) in an amount of up to $2.0 billion. Under the proposed OIC, repayment of advances made under the loan plus accrued interest may be made in whole or in part at any time provided that the loan plus any accrued interest shall be fully repaid by December 31, 2047.

- Subsection 22(1) of CIPA authorizes the Minister of Finance to make loans to the OFA in the amounts, times and on the terms and conditions authorized by Lieutenant Governor in Council (“LGIC”). Subsection 22(2) provides a statutory appropriation for loans made by the Minister to the OFA under subsection 22(1).

- Existing OICs authorize the Minister of Finance to provide loans to the OFA, and in turn the OFA has provided loans and credit facilities to colleges, school boards and other public bodies such as Infrastructure Ontario, IESO, Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

- This proposed OIC is required to increase the authority of the Minister of Finance to lend to the OFA which will provide the OFA with the capacity to provide additional loans to the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”).
    - This will help the IESO to fulfil the commitments under the *Fair Hydro Act, 2017* as the IESO will have to finance short to medium term funding shortfalls in the implementation of the Fair Hydro Plan.
    - The timing of this OIC is critical to ensure that borrowing authority for the OFA is available to provide the IESO its requested financing arrangements under the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017.*

s. 2 Approach and Intended Outcomes

- Under CIPA, the OFA provides financing to public bodies as directed by the Minister of Finance. The OFA obtains the funds it needs for its lending program by borrowing from the Province. This OIC would authorize the Minister of Finance under section 22 of CIPA to provide additional loans to the OFA.

- As per subsection 3(1) of CIPA, the Minister of Finance is responsible for the administration of CIPA with respect to the OFA.

- This proposed OIC is required to assist in fulfilling the commitments under the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017.*

- It is expected that as part of the implementation, the Minister of Finance will direct the OFA to provide a revolving credit facility for short term financing related to the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*. In particular, the OFA would be directed to provide a credit facility to the Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”). The IESO is a public body for the purposes of CIPA.

- Under the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017,* the IESO will incur a monthly funding shortfall in the early years of the plan, as a portion of the Global Adjustment charge to ratepayers will be deferred to the future. During this period, Global Adjustment amounts collected from ratepayers will, therefore, be insufficient to fund the IESO’s contractual obligations to electricity producers and service providers.

- The *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017* gives the IESO the right to recover those deferred amounts from specified consumers in the future (the “regulatory asset”) and the ability to sell the regulatory asset to a financing entity.
  - It is anticipated that the regulatory asset will be purchased by the financing entity to be established by OPG (“OPG SPV”, an OPG special purpose vehicle or trust).
  - The cash received from selling the regulatory asset will be used by the IESO to fund the current Global Adjustment shortfall.

- There is expected to be initial and potential ongoing IESO cash flow requirement timing differences. The OPG SPV is not anticipated to be established and able to borrow to finance the purchase of the regulatory asset from the IESO until later in 2017 (planned for later in summer 2017; however, exact timing is subject to actual implementation). Even once the SPV is set up to borrow, there is expected to be timing differences between the IESO’s monthly settlement process when it has to pay generators and when the SPV purchases the asset from IESO. Also, under the legislation, OPG’s SPV is not required to purchase any portion of the regulatory asset.

- As a result, IESO requires short-term financing to be in place for initial and expected monthly timing differences, or in the event that the OPG SPV, at any time, does not purchase a portion of the regulatory asset.

- IESO has requested that the OFA provide a revolving credit facility of $2.0 billion to support its role in the implementation of the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*.

- It is proposed that the OIC authorizes the OFA to borrow an additional $2.0 billion, which would be in addition to existing authority for the Minister of Finance to provide loans to the OFA, to ensure that there is sufficient borrowing authority in place for the OFA to meet the IESO requested requirements.

- If approved, the Minister of Finance will subsequently provide a Directive to the OFA to direct it to provide credit facilities to the IESO.
  - The OFA currently provides a credit facility to the IESO of $975 million.
  - The IESO has requested that the existing credit facility be reduced to $475 million, and a new credit facility be provided of $2.0 billion, for a total amount of $2.475 billion.

s. 3 Direction and Urgency

- The Province passed legislation on May 31, 2017 to implement the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017,* which will reduce electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for eligible households.
- The ability for the OFA to have the requisite borrowing and lending capacity is instrumental in supporting implementation of the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*.
- Ministry of Energy proposed regulations under the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017* are expected to track for Cabinet approval by end of June 2017. It is expected that this OIC also be submitted for approval concurrently as it supports a crucial component of the successfully implementation of the Fair Hydro Plan.
- A related Cabinet Minute from the Ministry of Energy is tracking for June 27, 2017 date.

s. 4 Impact Assessment and Costs

- With this OIC, the Minister of Finance will be authorized to lend an additional amount of $2.0 billion to the OFA. Subject to the terms and conditions of a

Directive from the Minister of Finance, loans from the Minister of Finance to the OFA are expected to be at the Province's cost of funds.
- Loans advanced will result in increased borrowing in the debt markets by the Province.
- Loans are expected to be repaid and, therefore, no fiscal impact is expected.

s. 5 **Implementation**

- If the OIC is approved and signed, the Minister of Finance will have authorization to provide a loan to the OFA. A Directive from the Minister may provide direction to the OFA on how it can use the proceeds of the loan.

s. 6 **Delivery and Results Tracking**

- As described in section 2 above, the requirement for this OIC is a result of the Province's *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017* and is required to ensure the timely implementation and support for the success of the Fair Hydro Plan. Upon approval, the Minister of Finance will have authorization to provide a loan to the OFA with a directive on how the loan can be used.

s.7 **Stakeholder Consultations**

- As described in section 2 above, the requirement for this OIC is a result of the Province's *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017*. The related Cabinet note for the initiative should be referred to.

s.8 **Other Jurisdictions and Harmonization**

- N/A

s. 9 **Communications**

- N/A

s. 10 Contacts and Appendices

Contacts

	Name	Phone Number
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Appendices

Appendix A: The Proposed OIC