

Treasury Board Secretariat

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February 17, 2017

Memorandum to: Mr. Warren (Smokey) Thomas

Subject: **OPSEU Press Release “Thomas to Wynne: ‘Pension assets belong to pension plan members’”**

As you are aware, the Pension Asset Expert Advisory Panel (“Panel”) released its report on February 13, 2017, and concluded that the net pension assets of both the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan and the Ontario Public Sector Employees’ Union Pension Plan should be recognized in Ontario’s financial statements.

The OPSEU pension plan, which is jointly-sponsored by OPSEU and the province, clearly states that no amount of the surplus shall be paid out of the plan to either sponsor. Simply put, the province does not have the ability to make any withdrawals from the plan.

I trust that you are reassured by this news. Your February 14 press release and your subsequent comments in a February 15 *Toronto Sun* article, suggest that you were unaware of these rules.

In addition, the province has not proposed any pension contribution increases or reductions at this time. Any decisions with respect to changes to pension contributions or benefits must be made by the Plan Sponsors. A decision to reduce contributions would benefit both the employees and the employer.

As you know, retirement security is an important priority for the Ontario Government. Joint sponsorship of the OPSEU Pension Plan between OPSEU and Ontario provides for shared governance and risk among the employer and plan members, thereby enhancing affordability and sustainability.

Should you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Marc Rondeau, Assistant Deputy Minister, Centre for Public Sector Labour Relations and Compensation, at 416-325-4545.

Thank you

[Original signed by]

Liz Sandals
President of the Treasury Board