RE: Media response for your review

From: "Jackson, Kelly (MOF)" <kelly.jackson2@ontario.ca>
To: "Sousa, Charles (MOF)" <charles.sousa@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 02 Jun 2017 15:16:48 -0400

thx

From: Sousa, Charles (MOF)
Sent: June-02-17 3:07 PM
To: Jackson, Kelly (MOF); Charles Sousa
Subject: Re: Media response for your review

Our government fiscal plan has consistently exceeded expectations. When our revenues were impacted by a global economic downturn, Ontario restructured and recalibrated its spending programs that were inefficient and worked to lower overall costs without cutting vital services to Ontarians. And we made strategic investments to grow our economy. As a result, we beat our deficit targets eight years in a row.

Our ability to meet financial challenges was reinforced by our balanced 2017 budget. It wasn't simply a promise kept; but a validation that a government can be both fiscally responsible and socially progressive.

It is interesting that the Progressive Conservatives – the one party with a track record of hiding billion dollar budget deficits from the public and increasing provincial debt by 53% while cutting and slashing vital public services when they were in office – think that they have a better approach to debt management.

We know that a strong economy, together with a balanced budget positions Ontario for long-term fiscal sustainability and provides greater flexibility to invest even more in health care, education and public services that matter most to Ontario families. While the Progressive Conservatives would have us make massive and unsustainable cuts to public services, we are focused on making life more affordable for the people of Ontario by increasing minimum wage, lowering hydro bills by 25% and providing free pharmacare for those 24 and under.

Charles Sousa, MPP
Minister of Finance, Ontario
416-325-1919
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From: Jackson, Kelly (MOF)
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 2:58 PM
To: Sousa, Charles (MOF); Charles Sousa
Subject: Media response for your review

Proposed response below – pls let me know if you have any changes. Will be sending this to PO as well, Kelly

Our government fiscal plan has consistently exceeded expectations. When our revenues were impacted by a global economic downturn, Ontario restructured and recalibrated its spending programs that were inefficient and worked to lower overall costs without cutting vital services to Ontarians. As a result, we beat our deficit targets eight years in a row.

Our ability to meet financial challenges was reinforced by our balanced 2017 budget. It wasn't simply a promise kept; but a validation that a government can be both fiscally responsible and socially progressive.

It is interesting that the Progressive Conservatives – the one party with a track record of hiding billion dollar budget deficits from the public and increasing provincial debt by 53% while cutting and slashing vital public services when they were in office – think that they are in a position to criticize our approach to debt management.

We know that a strong economy, together with a balanced budget positions Ontario for long-term fiscal sustainability and provides greater fiscal flexibility to invest even more in health care, education and public services that matter most to Ontario families. While the Progressive Conservatives would have us make massive and unsustainable cuts to public services, we are focused on making life more affordable for the people of Ontario by increasing minimum wage, lowering hydro bills by 25% and providing free pharmacare for those 24 and under.

From: Van Rooy, Natalie [mailto:Natalie.VanRooy@bellmedia.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Sousa, Charles MPP CO
Subject: CTV Northern Ontario request for comment

Hello,

My name is Natalie and I am a reporter with CTV Northern Ontario in North Bay. I interviewed Vic Fedeli today on a release of his new book – Finance book 4. He provided a couple of comments on Ontario's finances. I was hoping to receive a statement from Charles Sousa on this – it will air tonight.

Vic Fedeli says according to the financial accountability officer and auditor general – Ontario's deficit in five years will hit $390 billion dollars. He says the hydro relief plan will add up to 93 billion dollars more of debt.. and that Kathleen Wynne planned to hide the debt over at OPG, but the auditor general said no. He says that's why we will be almost a half-trillion dollars in debt in Ontario.

Please let me know if there is a statement to this. I can also be reached at 705 471 2469.

Regards,

Natalie

Kelly Jackson
Director of Communications
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