

Protocol for Interaction with the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) Protocol Review Feedback Questionnaire	
Context:	The Office of the Budget (OB) of the Ministry of Finance has developed the <i>Protocol for Interaction with the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (Protocol)</i>, which is intended to: • Support ministries/public entities in their interactions with the FAO; • Encourage ministries/public entities to conduct their interactions with the FAO in a responsive and cooperative manner that adheres to relevant legislation and guidelines; and • Facilitate the FAO gaining access to the information needed to carry out its mandate.
Purpose of this Questionnaire:	• Completing this questionnaire will help OB maintain the <i>Protocol</i> and other materials as up-to-date resources for ministries and public entities that reflects emerging FAO information gathering practices and lessons learned.
Instructions:	• Please complete this brief questionnaire. It is set up as a fillable form to allow respondents to complete and submit it electronically. • Please try to be as specific as possible when providing input to help OB best understand and implement your suggestions. • Alternatively, if you prefer, please contact OB to organize a feedback session in-person or via teleconference. • OB may follow up with respondents to discuss/clarify feedback as we update the <i>Protocol</i>. • If there are multiple areas in your ministry that interacted with the FAO, please consolidate all feedback from your ministry into one form before returning it to OB.
Ministry of Finance contact:	If you have any questions, or to submit your completed questionnaire, please contact: Daniel Tiburcio Manager, Fiscal Policy Coordination Unit Office of the Budget, Ministry of Finance Daniel.Tiburcio@ontario.ca
Deadline:	Please submit your completed questionnaire by end of day, August 24, 2017.

Respondent Information

Respondent Name:	Respondent email address:
Adrian Nalasco	Adrian.Nalasco@ontario.ca
Respondent ministry/public entity:	Topic of FAO information request:
Ministry of Energy	1. Fiscal Impact of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan 2. Market Risks of Nuclear Refurbishments

Question I: The *Protocol* and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- a) If you consulted the *Protocol* and/or FAQs, how **effective were these documents** in terms of supporting your ministry's/public entity's interactions with the FAO?

Very effective

- b) How could OB make the *Protocol* and/or FAQs more effective for ministries/public entities?

No further comments.

Question II : FAO Access to Information and Disclosure

- a) How **clear are the *Protocol* and/or FAQs** in terms of providing guidance about the FAO's rights to access information and the FAO's restrictions on the disclosure of information?

Very clear

- b) How could the *Protocol* and/or FAQs be revised to provide a clearer understanding of the FAO's access to information and disclosure restrictions?

Suggest including an expanded discussion in the Protocol for sharing and disclosure of third-party confidential and commercially sensitive information.

Question III: OB support for interactions between ministries/public entities and the FAO

- a) How would you rate the **level of support OB provided** to your ministry/public entity in support of your interactions with the FAO?

Very Good

- b) How could OB better support lead and/or implicated ministries/public entities in their interactions with the FAO?

The Ministry appreciated the introductory in-person briefing provided by OB shortly after the FAO request was received, particularly with respect to processes for scoping the request and documenting interactions between the Ministry and FAO. For the review of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, OB was helpful in supporting the Ministry and its interactions with the FAO. For the FAO review of nuclear refurbishments, the Ministry relied on its agencies (i.e., Ontario Power Generation and Independent Electricity System Operator) to provide information to the FAO given their technical expertise and oversight of these nuclear projects. As such, there was a limited role for OB to support interactions with the FAO.

Question IV: Responding to FAO Information Requests "in a Timely Manner"

- a) In its 2016-17 Annual Report, the FAO indicates that some ministries and public entities do not always provide information in the "timely manner" required by FAO Act. Please describe the challenges/barriers you faced (if any) in meeting the FAO's information request timelines and what could be done to overcome them?

No challenges/barriers in meeting FAO's information requests for Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan and nuclear refurbishments. For the latter, the Ministry relied on its agencies (i.e., Ontario Power

Generation and Independent Electricity System Operator) to provide information to the FAO and both agencies were well-equipped to respond in a timely manner.

Question V: Any Other Feedback

- a) If you have any other **feedback, lessons learned or suggestions for other tools/approaches** not captured above that would help OB better facilitate future interactions between ministries/public entities and the FAO, please explain below:

The Ministry is concerned with the FAO's delay in releasing the report on nuclear refurbishments. In particular, the Ministry expected to incorporate the FAO's findings into its development process for the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (2017 LTEP); however, with the delay, the 2017 LTEP will now be complete prior to the Ministry receiving a final version of the report. Note: The FAO's review of nuclear refurbishments was initiated in June 2016 (i.e., over a year ago) and the Ministry considers the delay to be unreasonable.

DEADLINE: Please submit your completed questionnaire by end of day, **AUGUST 24, 2017**
Completed questionnaires may be submitted via email to Daniel Tiburcio (Daniel.Tiburcio@ontario.ca)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!