FW: POCO-approved Energy backgrounders

From: "Schuurman, Tim (MOF)" <tim.schuurman@ontario.ca>
To: "Thompson, Scott (MOF)" <scott.thompson@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Lewis, Brian (MOF)" <brian.lewis@ontario.ca>, "Kwan, Ronald (OFA)" <ronald.kwan@ofina.on.ca>, "Mayman, Gadi (OFA)" <gadi.mayman@ofina.on.ca>, "McLean, David (MOF)" <david.mclean@ontario.ca>, "Esmail, Selena (MOF)" <selena.esmail@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 01 Mar 2017 15:18:21 -0500
Attachments: 2017-02-28 Global Adjustment - EM 932 bb_CO.DOCX (60.3 kB); 2017-02-28 Backgrounder - Savings to date 901 EM bb_CO.DOCX (54.35 kB); 2017-02-22- Social programs- Feb 28 EM 920 bb_CO.DOCX (61.91 kB); 2017-02-28 Optimizing Energy Sector Efficiencies- EM 928 bb_CO.DOCX (60.46 kB); 2017-03-01 Rate mitigation NR-11am gt-FORMATTED_COMOF team edits.docx (58.62 kB)

Scott

Not sure if you've seen the draft comms products for tomorrow's announcement, but the news release makes a pretty major fiscal policy statement that is inconsistent with what we've been saying all through FES and in recent weeks.

It says:

"The province continues to project a balanced budget for 2017–18, however, hydro rate relief costs could create challenges in maintaining this target should economic growth slow. The province will provide a full update on its fiscal plan in the spring Budget."

You'll recall that during the FES, we tried to add language to the document that foreshadowed the possibility that the government may need to "pivot" in the upcoming Document, should certain conditions be met. But it was also going to say that they government would look and consider all tools to ensure this commitment can be met.

Maybe I'm reading too much into this, but this new line could be interpreted as the government saying the balanced budget target is at risk because of these investments. However, there may have been discussions around this file on this that I wasn't around for.

Perhaps it would make more sense to say something like this:

"The province remains committed to balancing the budget in 2017–18 while continuing to make investments in priority areas such as hydro rate relief. The government will provide a full update on its fiscal plan in the upcoming Budget."

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From: Birks, Ryan (MOF)
Sent: March-01-17 3:11 PM
To: Inglis, Liane (MOF); Lindquist, Emma (MOF); Tiburcio, Daniel (MOF); Esmail, Selena (MOF)
Cc: Schuurman, Tim (MOF)
Subject: FW: POCO-approved Energy backgrounders

Hi team,

FYI, comms has provided updated backgrounders. The attached NR is unchanged from what they had previously circulated.

Can you please review and provide any comments in track changes by 5pm?

Thanks,
Ryan

From: Maimona, Mashoka (MOF)
Sent: March-01-17 3:05 PM
To: Gavin He; Zhang, Christina (OFA); Birks, Ryan (MOF)
Cc: Quarcoo, Irene (MOF)
Subject: POCO-approved Energy backgrounders

Hi again folks,

Updated backgrounders, as promised. Gavin, I would keep the focus to the first and fourth backgrounders from CEFD's purposes ("Refinancing the Global Adjustment" and "Energy Sector Efficiencies").

Thanks a million!

From: Yoo, Sarah (CAB)
Sent: March-01-17 3:02 PM
To: Maimona, Mashoka (MOF)
Cc: Whytock, John (CAB); Cesca, Stephanie (CAB); Lone, Dianne (MOF)
Subject: Energy backgrounders

Hi Mashoka,

As discussed, attached are the latest versions that includes both COPO edits + comments.

Please let us know if there are any factual concerns asap.

Many thanks,

SARAH YOO
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Cabinet Office Communications
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