

Hansard: Fedeli to McMahon (Sousa) -- AG Pre-Election Report

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **Vic Fedeli:** Thank you, Speaker. My question's for the **Premier**. The auditor general was clear. The government's deficit numbers are off by \$5 billion this year, \$5.5 billion next year and \$6 billion off, almost 100% off the following year. Those revealed deficits are projected to grow to a total of \$16.6 billion over the next three years. We now know that in their desperation the **Premier** and this government have betrayed the public's trust. **That's why our leader Doug Ford has today promised that, when elected, we will launch an independent commission of inquiry. This new commission will get to the bottom of the Liberals' deficit scandal and propose timely solutions to solving the deficit problem.** Speaker, why does it always take the OPP, the auditor general or an investigative commission to get to the truth with this **Premier**?

>> Minister McMahon: Speaker, you know, it's troubling in here -- to say the least the member opposite would conflate the respected opinion of an independent of this legislature with motive or intent. As he felt of the former OPP Officer, I can tell you clearly, Speaker, that this is not about that. What this is about and we said it yesterday is a couple of things. Number one reminding the public of the confidence that's necessary in our public institutions and not undermining those, which is precisely what the member opposite doing. Second we thank the auditor general for her service and remind this House and Ontario public that we have a difference of opinion, and that is a respectful difference of opinion, Speaker, and it will remain so, because we are committed to seeking professional advice from professional accountants. We did that, but we also have a highly respected public service. The member opposite diminishes that when he talks about the credibility of our work, Speaker, and our work as a provincial government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> Vic Fedeli: Well, thank you. Back to the **Premier**. This is not about a difference of opinion, Speaker. This is about desperation. We cannot trust anything in Liberal government ever estimates or projects again. Their budget is no longer worth the paper it was printed on. The people of this province are angry.

and they want answers. Doug Ford and the Ontario P.C.S are going to get those answers. It took 15 years for the Liberals to create this mess and it will not be resolved overnight. But we will restore Ontario to fiscal health in a responsible manner. Speaker, I'll ask the **Premier** one more time, why does it always take the OPP, the auditor general or an investigative commission. To get to the truth with this **Premier** and this government?

>> Minister Sousa: So, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite now wants to do an audit of the auditor. The Minister -- the member opposite -- I'm not sure what independent auditing team they intend to use. Is it KPMG? Deloitte? E&Y or Doug Ford that's going to go out there and look at the books, Mr. Speaker. Let me be clear -- Mr. Speaker, the auditor general does make clear that the pre-election report does provide a reasonable and cautious underpinning of those fiscal forecasts that we made. The auditor general only reflects on two issues and they've been the same two issues for the past number of years. It's the reflection of pension assets which the auditor general feels we should actually discount, but every other auditor, including herself in the past, has agreed with. And the second one is a fair hydro plan, which these independent, world renowned accounting firms have prepared. She says it's not wrong to actually do this kind of rate regulation. She doesn't lie and that's not --

>> Vic Fedeli: Back to the **Premier**. The auditor general told us yesterday in her news conference that when you get push-back from the government, like she's getting, that's the time for Ontario to worry, Speaker. And now it's obvious to everyone in Ontario how this election document the Liberals tabled was a 100% sham. None of the care promises were included in the budget legislation. Only the tax increases made it in. Speaker, this **Premier** can never be trusted again. But I tell the people of Ontario that help is on the way. Doug Ford and the Ontario P.C.S, we will deliver our commitments, clean up the scandals and the waste and protect the services that people of Ontario deserve. And we will not quit until we have restored responsibility, accountability -- and trust --

>> Minister Sousa: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is claiming that they are not going to help the people of Ontario. They're going to cut programs for the people of Ontario. They're going to cut the services, cut the investment and cut the ability for Ontario to be strong and continue to grow. So, Mr. Speaker, dated April 24th, a couple of days ago, by a rating agency. And this is what they said. DBRS limited said this -- the province of Ontario has and respectfully has confirmed Ontario's electricity, financial, corporation and long-term obligations as well as the province's rating as double-A. The trend on all things are stable including O.P.G., IESO and the province of Ontario. That is what's going on and they are supporting Ontario all the way, Mr. Speaker.

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