

Net vs. Total Debt QA

From: "McLean, David (MOF)" <david.mclean@ontario.ca>
To: "Thompson, Scott (MOF)" <scott.thompson@ontario.ca>
Date: Sun, 02 Oct 2016 11:39:48 -0400

Here's a Q&A based on Gadi's email yesterday. Let me know if you'd like to add to it, otherwise I can flip to Kyle for inclusion with the bigger package.

Q: How can the accumulated deficit and net debt increase by \$10.7B without causing an increase in total debt?

A: **Total debt** is cash based – it is how much money we've borrowed and is owed to our creditors. **Net debt** takes into account the difference between our financial assets and liabilities, whether they are cash or not. The province has changed the valuation of a financial asset by reducing the pension asset by \$10.7 billion, but because there is no cash involved in that valuation, the total debt does not change.

David McLean
Executive Assistant and Special Policy Advisor
Deputy Minister's Office
Ministry of Finance
416-327-0192
david.mclean@ontario.ca