FW: BC Foreword

From:	"Hosick, Sarah (TBS)" <sarah.hosick@ontario.ca>
To:	"Veinot, Cindy (TBS)" <cindy.veinot@ontario.ca>
Cc:	"Dawaraj, Prashant (TBS)" <prashant.dawaraj@ontario.ca>
Date:	Tue, 08 Aug 2017 16:23:40 -0400
Attachments:	BC Public Accounts 2007-08.pdf (6.24 MB)

Hi Cindy

Please see attached for a copy of BC's 2007-08 Public Accounts that references the qualified opinion in the controller's foreword. The relevant extract is below. The 2007-08 year is the one which goes into the most amount of detail on the issue, whereas future years typically only have the highlighted sentences.

Please let us know if you would like us to pull together any more material.

Thanks
Sarah

From: Dawaraj, Prashant (TBS)
Sent: August 8, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Hosick, Sarah (TBS)
Subject: RE: BC Foreword

Hi Sarah,

See attached for the BC Public Accounts 2007-08 (link: http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/ocg/pa/07_08/PublicAccounts.pdf), including an explanation on the qualified opinion. I have highlighted the part where the qualified opinion is mentioned (see snippet below):

> Each year the Auditor General expresses his opinion on the Summary Financial Statements based on his audit. This year the Auditor General has expressed a qualified audit opinion and noted several reservations in areas he believes the financial statements have departed from Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The position of the Auditor General represents a very different view of our long standing accounting policies, and is also different from the generally accepted practice followed by other jurisdictions in Canada. All of these issues are the result of differences in professional judgement about how accounting principles should best be applied to faithfully represent the underlying substance of specific transactions and programs. Responsibility for the preparation of the government's financial statements resides with my office. Based on our professional judgement, analysis of the transactions and programs, and broad consultation with experts in government, other jurisdictions and the independent Accounting Policy Advisory Committee, we were unable to agree with the positions taken by the Auditor General on these issues. As always we will continue to work with the professional community, other jurisdictions and the Office of the Auditor General to address the issues he has raised.

The verbiage used in subsequent years with qualified opinions (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, etc.) is similar to the highlighted part above.

The 2007-08 public accounts included a lengthier explanation than subsequent years. The main issue seems to revolve around differences in the application of professional judgement related to accounting principles in order to faithfully represent the financial statements.

Please let me know if you need me to dig deeper into the underlying issues.

Thanks,

Prashant Dawaraj

From: Hosick, Sarah (TBS)
Sent: August-08-17 2:47 PM
To: Dawaraj, Prashant (TBS)

Subject: BC Foreword

Hi Prashant

Cindy is looking for a foreword done by the BC Controller Cheryl Wenezenki-Yollande (spelling might be off) years ago, where she references that the opinion is qualified and why.

Can you go through the past BC Public Accounts and find this foreword? I think it was just under 10 years ago, but not sure the exact year. Key thing to note is that it was the controller's foreword, not the Minister's foreword.

Let me know if any questions.

Thanks
Sarah