

RE: Chair's opening remarks - Nov. 1

From: "Veinot, Cindy (TBS)" <"/o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=veinot, cindy (tbs)d57">
To: "Hosick, Sarah (TBS)" <sarah.hosick@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 31 Oct 2016 12:47:19 -0400

Thanks Sarah – see below

From: Hosick, Sarah (TBS)
Sent: October-31-16 11:01 AM
To: Veinot, Cindy (TBS)
Subject: FW: Chair's opening remarks - Nov. 1

Hi Cindy

Below are the draft opening remarks for the Minister for the Panel at TB/MBC tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any edits or questions.

Thanks
Sarah

Minister's remarks:

During the 2015-16 Public Accounts, the [professional staff](#) and the Auditor General disagreed regarding the accounting for jointly sponsored pension plans that are in [a net asset position](#). As a result, the Province established a regulation that [required the Public Accounts to be prepared in accordance with the Auditor General's interpretation of PSAB on this issue, resulting in an increase of \\$1.6 billion to the annual deficit and an increase of \\$10.7 billion to net debt and accumulated deficit as of March 31, 2016](#). The regulation was passed time-limited to enable the professional staff to sign off on the 2015-16 Public Accounts, however, the disagreement on this accounting issue has an ongoing impact to the province.

It is important that the government understand and receive independent expert advice to make decisions on the future accounting policy [for net pension assets](#), as this dispute materially impacts the government's fiscal plans.

The Expert [Pension Asset](#) Advisory Panel is to report to the government by December 31, 2016 and the report will be [provided to the Auditor General and released publicly subsequently](#).

Clarity on this issue is needed in connection with [fiscal planning for the 2017 Budget as well as the preparation of the 2016-17 Public Accounts](#). Today's approval [enables the appointments of members to the panel](#), so they can start work immediately .

