Ministry Name/Logo Here

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Consideration of Chapter 2, Public Accounts of the Province
February 2018

Contents

Environmental Scan

Brief overview of the overall environment and considerations for the ministry going into SCOPA.

Media Scan

Overview of the key themes and issues that have been raised in the media.

Hansard Scan

Overview of key themes raised in the House or during recent committee appearances.

FOIs/OPQs

Brief overview of any FOI requests or OPQs that are currently outstanding and may be relevant to the issues raised in SCOPA.

Overview	Key Issues	Key Dates	Next Steps
E.g. – OPQ #700 MPP Vic Fedeli Would the President of the Treasury Board state whether the government is in possession of an opinion from KPMG or E&Y on how the Fair Hydro Plan transaction should be recorded in the government's Consolidated Financial Statements, and further state precisely where they disagree with the Auditor General	Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Accounting	CO Due Date: April 2, 2018	In progress – **Products:** Response to OPQ. **Notes:** Draft will be sent first week of January 2018 to OPCD to draft response. OPQ will be formally filed on February 20, 2018 TBS is the only ministry to have received this OPQ. **Next Steps:** Develop and approve response

Other Considerations

Include any other considerations that should be on the radar going into SCOPA.

Key Issues

Issue/Consideration	Strategy	Key Messages	Evidence

Brief description of the issue/consideration	Brief overview of the overall strategy when responding to the issue	Outline key messages to respond to the issue	Examples of evidence that support the response (for example, reports from external consultants, government documents such as the Budget, etc.)
E.g. **Pension Asset Accounting:** Auditor General's qualified opinion	Confirm that the province will continue to follow PSAS, as always, and seek appropriate expert guidance where PSAS is silent. Highlight supporting perspectives from external consultants.	The government continues to move forward and present the province's finances fairly and accurately and in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS). The government respectfully disagrees with the Auditor General's interpretation of the accounting standards, as PSAS neither requires unilateral control to record an asset, nor does it include a requirement to obtain a letter from the co-sponsor of the plan agreeing to reduce further contributions within 12 months. The government is open to continue to discuss the matter in hopes of resolving this matter.	• Pension Asset Expert Advisory Panel • Opinion from Deloitte LLP • Analysis Completed by EY

Questions & Answers

Top Questions

1. **List of anticipated top questions and answers**

   Approximately 10 to 15 questions and answers

2. E.g. – **How do you respond to the Auditor General's recommendation that the government remove the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) market accounts from the province's consolidated financial statements?**

   In 2016, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) began recognizing its market accounts' assets (amounts due from power distributors) and liabilities (amounts due to power producers) in its financial results. IESO has chosen to recognize these markets accounts on its books for transparency reasons, as it better reflects the financial position of the IESO-administered markets at year-end. This change was supported by the IESO's audit committee, its independent external auditor, and by the Office of the Provincial Controller. This change also has no impact to the province's annual deficit, net debt or accumulated deficit.

   The financial statements of the IESO for the year-ended December 31, 2016 were subject to an external audit and received an unqualified (or clean) opinion.

   This accounting is consistent with the presentation used previously by the Ontario Power Authority (which was merged with the IESO on January 1, 2015) in its financial statements, which was not subject to qualification from the Office of the Auditor General at that time.

Long-Form Answers

1. **List three long-form questions and answers**

   Answers are recommended to be approximately 2,000 words in length. Suggestion to list questions and brief outline of answer/key messages in the meantime while full answers are being finalized.

Ministry/Agency Representatives

List the full names, positions, and organizations of who will be attending SCOPA from the ministry/agency.

Organization	Position	Name
E.g. Treasury Board Secretariat	Deputy Minister	Helen Angus
E.g. Treasury Board Secretariat	Associate Deputy Minister,	Karen Hughes

	Office of the Treasury Board	

Supporting Materials

List and append any materials that will help with SCOPA preparations, such as backgrounders, technical briefing decks, House book notes, etc.

Backgrounders

- E.g. Auditor General 2017 Annual Report – Public Accounts – Management Response December 2017

Technical Briefings/QAs

- E.g. Public Accounts – Technical Briefing Deck September 2017

House Book Notes

- E.g. Pension Asset Accounting