

FW: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

From: "Scott, Adrienne (CAB)" <adrienne.scott@ontario.ca>
To: "Betzner, Lynn (CAB)" <lynn.betzner@ontario.ca>
Cc: "McMichael, Rhonda (CAB)" <rhonda.mcmichael@ontario.ca>, "Farrow, Alicia (CAB)" <alicia.farrow@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 19 Apr 2018 20:01:45 -0400
Attachments: G&M_FHP Accounting_TBS Response_April 19 v4.docx (22.31 kB)

Hi Lynn - Sorry for the long trail, but wanted you to be able to look at the entire back and forth if you choose to. Attached is the response to the globe reporter in lieu of an interview with the controller or DM of TBS.

As Bryant notes below, it is a very technical response, but TBS is recommending this to try to provide their argument- perhaps there is no "pithy" way to do that .

Happy to discuss tonight or tomorrow - and Rhonda, of course any advice you have as well would be great- we can chat in am.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>
Date: Thursday, Apr 19, 2018, 7:47 PM
To: Scott, Adrienne (CAB) <Adrienne.Scott@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

You got it – here it is.

It's pretty technical as you'll see. But I think it's important we get our side on the record to protect our officials.

As far as I know my MO has not yet shared this with the reporter, but I'll be following up in the a.m.

Bryant

From: Scott, Adrienne (CAB)
Sent: April 19, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Thanks draft response tonight would be great!

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>
Date: Thursday, Apr 19, 2018, 5:24 PM
To: Scott, Adrienne (CAB) <Adrienne.Scott@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

I think tomorrow morning is fine. Tonight I can share the draft response with you just for context. I don't know when he's running the story (assume imminent) and I wanted you to be aware that senior officials (DM Angus and Cindy) are very likely to be mentioned by name.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Scott, Adrienne (CAB) <Adrienne.Scott@ontario.ca>
Date: Thursday, Apr 19, 2018, 5:16 PM
To: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Do we need to talk tonight? Or tomorrow am ?

From: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS)
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:10 PM
To: Scott, Adrienne (CAB)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi Adrienne, I'm on kid duty too so just on the train. I can call you later if that works?

We have a proposed response to the reporter with our MO now. He had requested interviews with Cindy Veinot, our provincial controller, as well as DM Angus (and DM Thompson). We opted instead to respond in writing. I've looped in MOF and Energy.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Scott, Adrienne (CAB) <Adrienne.Scott@ontario.ca>
Date: Thursday, Apr 19, 2018, 4:58 PM
To: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>
Subject: FW: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi- just tried you so sorry it took me so long – below is what I know about the issue, but if you have time to give me a call that would be great. Or send me an email? Or I can call you later from home- I'm on kid duty so have to leave around 530 today....

From: McMichael, Rhonda (CAB)
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 4:32 PM
To: Hughes, Karen (TBS); Scott, Adrienne (CAB)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi Karen – I've spoken with Bryant, and we are aligned. I asked him to pop by and chat with you re: what's in the works re: response.

Please feel free to connect with me or Adrienne at any point as well. Bryant will also keep in touch with us, too.

Thanks
Rhonda

From: Hughes, Karen (TBS)
Sent: April 18, 2018 3:59 PM
To: McMichael, Rhonda (CAB); Scott, Adrienne (CAB)

Subject: FW: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi, please see below.

Any advice.

Thanks

Karen

From: Tharani, Alisha (TBS)
Sent: April 18, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Ue, Allison (TBS) <Allison.Ue@ontario.ca>; Nelson, Dane (TBS) <Dane.Nelson@ontario.ca>
Cc: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>; Vrancart, Kate (TBS) <Kate.Vrancart@ontario.ca>; Miller, Amanda (TBS) <Amanda.Miller@ontario.ca>; Thiru, Durga (TBS) <Durga.Thiru@ontario.ca>; Hosick, Sarah (TBS) <Sarah.Hosick@ontario.ca>; Laughton, Patrick (TBS) <Patrick.Laughton@ontario.ca>
Subject: FW: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi Allison & Dane,

See below for Matt McClearn's response regarding the decision to decline his request for an interview with Cindy.

Note that he cc'd Cindy on his response.

Also, to respond to his fact check request from earlier this afternoon, please see below for a proposed response (OPCD approved; initial Energy approval – waiting for final DMO/MO sign-off on their end) for your review.

Will keep you updated,

Alisha

Alisha Tharani

Senior Issues & Media Advisor | Treasury Board Secretariat
416-327-3803 | Alisha.Tharani@ontario.ca

Fact Check Request from Matt McClearn (G&M): As he understands, Cindy was on the FHP team at the same time she asked IESO to look at the issue of market accounts. Can we confirm.

Response:

In January 2017, at one of the initial meetings that the Provincial Controller attended to discuss the Fair Hydro Plan, she became aware of the accounting for the market accounts at IESO, and requested management of IESO to review the accounting for these accounts. At the time the request was made, the structure for the Global Adjustment Refinancing of the Fair Hydro Plan had not been determined.

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Sent: April 18, 2018 1:27 PM

To: Tharani, Alisha (TBS)
Subject: FW: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

FYI

From: McClearn, Matthew <MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, Apr 18, 2018, 1:24 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) <Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>
Cc: Veinot, Cindy (TBS) <Cindy.Veinot@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Okay, Lawvin. I respect Ms. Veinot's decision to decline the interview request.

Please let Ms. Veinot know that the story will explore her instruction to the IESO to consider changing its accounting policies. It's my understanding that at the time, Ms. Veinot was already involved with the team that was designing the Fair Hydro Plan's financial and accounting structure. Ms. Veinot later signed the Statement of Responsibility on the Province's financial statements, notwithstanding the Auditor General's warnings that the IESO was using improper accounting that might result in future misstatements on Ontario's public accounts. We'll be reporting the government's assertions that the IESO's decision to change its accounting policies was unrelated to the Fair Hydro Plan, and noting that those accounting policies were put to immediate use with the Fair Hydro Plan, and that the Auditor General insists those two developments were directly related. We'll be noting that Ms. Veinot declined our interview request.

If she changes her mind between now and when the story is finalized, I welcome her to contact me directly. My line is (416) 585-5487. Regards,

Matt.



Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team
p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e: mmcclearn@globeandmail.com

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 12:50 PM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Cc: Tharani, Alisha (TBS)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi Matt,

Thanks for your patience. It's been crazy today at Queen's Park.

We don't traditionally offer civil servants for interviews. We're happy to continue to work with you to provide answers to your questions.

I understand Alisha is fact-checking something for you. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks.

Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: April 16, 2018 1:51 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Very good. Thanks, Lawvin and Alisha. Regards,

Matt.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Hadisi, Lawvin \(TBS\)](#)
Sent: April 16, 2018 1:45 PM
To: [McClearn, Matthew](#)
Cc: [Tharani, Alisha \(TBS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Hi Matt,

Thanks for your email.

I have cc'd Alisha Tharani who will help you with your request. She has better insight into Cindy's schedule.

Best,

Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: April 16, 2018 11:30 AM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: Interview request: Cindy Veinot

Lawvin:

I'll be publishing a story about the financial and accounting structure of the Fair Hydro Plan in the near future, and I wanted to request an interview with Cindy Veinot this week, if she's available. My own schedule is quite flexible. Please let me know when you have a moment. Thanks and regards,

Matt.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Hadisi, Lawvin \(TBS\)](#)
Sent: April 5, 2018 3:29 PM
To: [McClearn, Matthew](#)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matt,

I appreciate your patience with this request.

Below is our response to your questions.

Best,

Lawvin

-

Questions:

- 1) On what date did Ms. Veinot ask the IESO to “look at” the issue of market accounts on the IESO’s financial statements?
- 2) What form did this request take? (Letter, memo, personal conversation, etc.)
- 3) To whom at IESO did Ms. Veinot direct this request?
- 4) Did Ms. Veinot indicate to the IESO a time frame in which her instructions were to be executed? If so, what was that timeframe?

Response:

During the week of January 16, 2017, Cindy Veinot, Assistant Deputy Minister and Provincial Controller had a conversation with Kim Marshall, Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer regarding IESO’s financial reporting of market accounts. She requested IESO take a closer look at the accounting for market accounts on their financial statements. While no specific timeframe was discussed during the conversation, the intention of the request was to have this review completed before the province’s year-end of March 31, 2017.

Background:

In its 2016 financial statements, 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 market 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 (KPMG), and by the Office of the Provincial Controller.

As standard practice, the financial statements of the IESO for the year-ended December 31, 2016 were subject to an external audit by KPMG. KPMG issued an unqualified (or clean) opinion stating that the financial statements of the IESO were fairly presented, in all material respects, in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS).

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.

The Office of the Provincial Controller is responsible for the integrity of the government’s public financial reporting, including consolidation of all organizations within the reporting entity, as presented within the Public Accounts of Ontario. The province’s consolidated financial statements, including the entities it controls and consolidates (such as the IESO), are presented in accordance with PSAS and the government’s internal reporting policies. Each consolidated entity (such as the IESO) produces its own stand-alone financial statements and is subject to its own financial statement audit.

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]

Sent: April 4, 2018 1:42 PM

To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)

Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot’s instructions to IESO

Okay, thanks for the prompt response. Regards,

Matt.



Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team

p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e: mmcclearn@globeandmail.com

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 1:41 PM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matt,

Yes I am working on it. Will get you something asap.

Sorry it's taking so long.

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: April 4, 2018 1:40 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Lawvin:

Any word on this? Please advise. Thanks and regards,

Matt.



Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team

p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e: mmcclearn@globeandmail.com

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 2:26 PM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Thanks for the update. We will touch base shortly.

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: March 29, 2018 2:13 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Lawvin:

I don't have a firm deadline at this point. But it's one of those stories that could go from draft to published quite quickly. I'll be chatting with my editor about it next week. It's certainly not running this weekend. Regards,

Matt.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Hadisi, Lawvin \(TBS\)](#)
Sent: March 29, 2018 1:36 PM
To: [McClearn, Matthew](#)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matthew - can you let me know your absolute deadline?
Thanks.
Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew <MMcClearn@globeandmail.com<<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>>>
Date: Monday, Mar 26, 2018, 11:02 AM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) <Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca<<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>>>
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Lawvin:

Yes, please, I'll be writing more on this. Regards,

Matt.

[cid:5114D3B1-1410-4891-8833-0259441E2F64]
Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team
p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e:
mmcclearn@globeandmail.com<<mailto:mmcclearn@globeandmail.com>>

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 10:58 AM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matt,

Just to confirm, do you still want the answers to the questions below. I saw your story today but wasn't sure if you are doing a follow up.

Let me know.

Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: March 23, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)

Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Lawvin:

Okay, thanks. I'm filing an early draft today, but we'll have opportunities to revise next week. No publication date yet.

Matt.

[cid:5114D3B1-1410-4891-8833-0259441E2F64]
Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team
p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e:
mmcclearn@globeandmail.com<<mailto:mmcclearn@globeandmail.com>>

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 10:15 AM
To: McClearn, Matthew; Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matt,

Treasury Board will handle questions pertaining to the Office of the Provincial Controller.

We will work on your request. What is your deadline?

Thanks.

Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: March 22, 2018 5:45 PM
To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: Veinot, Cindy (TBS); Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hey, Colin. I just want to confirm that the MOE represents Ms. Veinot for the purposes of communications. That's not what I expected, so please confirm. Thanks and regards,

Matt.

[cid:5114D3B1-1410-4891-8833-0259441E2F64]
Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team
p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e:
mmcclearn@globeandmail.com<<mailto:mmcclearn@globeandmail.com>>

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) [<mailto:Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 3:40 PM
To: McClearn, Matthew
Cc: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Hi Matthew,

Thank you for your email.

I have cc'd my colleague Colin who can help with your request.

Any additional questions can be directed to him.

Best,

Lawvin

From: McClearn, Matthew [<mailto:MMcClearn@globeandmail.com>]
Sent: March 22, 2018 3:26 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Subject: Cindy Veinot's instructions to IESO

Lawvin:

It's McClearn here again.

Before the Public Accounts Committee on Feb. 28, 2017, provincial controller Cindy Veinot testified to the following:

There are two different issues. One is the reflection of market accounts in the financial statements of the IESO. As the provincial controller, I actually asked the IESO to look at that issue. When I first heard about the fact that the IESO had a second set of accounts that was not reflected in their financial statements, I asked them to consider whether or not that was the appropriate accounting treatment.

She also said:

The issue that the Auditor General qualified the statements on, the inclusion of market accounts, is something that I directed them, I asked them to look at, because I didn't think the accounting that they were doing, which was not showing any of the \$17 billion in the transactions that they settled for the market—I didn't think it was appropriate.

Before the same committee, IESO CFO Kim Marshall testified:

We fast-forward a couple of years and we have some conversations with a new provincial controller. At that time, there are questions about, "But why do you do what you do?" So we undertook some processes to go, first of all, right back to the beginning of the IESO and see what was some of the advice that was presented at that point in time...

My questions:

- 1) On what date did Ms. Veinot ask the IESO to "look at" the issue of market accounts on the IESO's financial statements?
- 2) What form did this request take? (Letter, memo, personal conversation, etc.)
- 3) To whom at IESO did Ms. Veinot direct this request?
- 4) Did Ms. Veinot indicate to the IESO a time frame in which her instructions were to be executed? If so, what was that timeframe?

Thanks for considering my questions. Best regards,

Matt.

[cid:5114D3B1-1410-4891-8833-0259441E2F64]
Matthew McClearn | Data journalist, Enterprise Team
p: 416.585.5487 | m: 416.705.6047 | e:
mmcclearn@globeandmail.com<<mailto:mmcclearn@globeandmail.com>>