MYAP Watch List – October 31, 2017

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Autism

School-based pilots

- EDU plans to announce the implementation of the pilots (via a news bulletin) on October 25th. MCYS is currently working with EDU and reaching out to service providers to provide advanced notice

- Pilots will reflect change in approach based on feedback from the OAP Advisory Committee

Feedback from Committee	Change in Approach
EDU should consider an alternative to the Geneva Centre for Autism as the provider for Education Assistant training.	Proceed with Geneva Centre for Autism as the training provider for the pilot duration, but require the independent evaluator of the pilot explore alternatives for future roll-out.
Should be more expertise/support from certified professionals in schools during pilots.	Include 1 Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) or equivalent in each pilot board.
A separate, dedicated space for the delivery of therapy may stigmatize students with autism.	Require boards (through transfer payment agreements) to report back on how they are promoting equity, inclusion and access to services as part of the pilots, to reduce the stigma from the dedicated space model.

- School boards with dedicated space (11 boards) will begin implementing immediately, and the EA training and new BCBA oversight aspects of the pilots (all 18 school boards) will begin in second semester 2018 (January/February in most school boards.)

Ontario Autism Coalition protest

- “Autism Doesn't End At School Protest” scheduled for October 26. Topic of the protest is the need for overall supports for students with autism, such as the urgent need for intensive ABA in classrooms, better teacher training, the need for an education accessibility standard, and the lack of accountability for the spending of special education money. Issues management materials below.

New Direct Funding Option

- MCYS is proposing to bring forward a TB/MBC submission on November 14, 2017 on a new Direct Funding Option (DFO) for the OAP. MCYS was directed by Cabinet in May to develop and implement this by Fall 2017.

- The submission will describe the new DFO, transition plan for existing $8/$10K clients, determine a revised $/hr cost and recommend a list of qualifications for DFO-eligible providers to support accountability.
    - MCYS plans to announce the new DFO by the end of the year, and implement beginning in January 2018.
    - MCYS will be working with stakeholders to identify qualifications for DFO providers in order to support parent choice and provider accountability for DFO funding.

- MCYS flagged the pressure for autism has been reduced from the previously reported $31M to $27.7M, and are requesting a release from holdback to address this pressure.

ABA Oversight

- A letter from Minister Hoskins requested that HPRAC review options on how/whether to regulate ABA practitioners; HPRAC has been asked to submit their recommendations to the Minister of MOHLTC by January 31, 2018.
- Tracking to HESP on October 31st as info item (TBD)

Income Security Reform

Working Groups' Report and Plan for Release

- MCSS has received the ISR Working Groups' final report, "Income Security: A Roadmap for Change". MCSS brought forward to MT:PRSI on October 23 a proposal to:
    - Publicly "receive" the report, and acknowledge the need to fundamentally reform the income security system, including the transformation of social assistance, to ensure all individuals are treated with respect and dignity and are inspired to reach their full potential, with particular attention to the needs and experience of Indigenous peoples; and
    - Invite the broader public in Fall 2017 to provide feedback to inform the development of a multi-year plan for reform.

- MCSS intends to develop a phased implementation plan, outlining the short-, medium-, and long-term phases of reform, and report back for approval in Winter 2017-18.
    - Short-term phase to focus on modest investments that could be taken within the first three years that will have an impact on clients (expected to include cost estimates over the long-term)
        - MCSS has shared an initial phased approach, costed at $210M, $880M and $1.39B over next three years (in comparison to ISR Roadmap recommendations of $810M, $2.4B, $3.2B over first three years)

- Tracking to Cabinet on Nov 1.

Seniors

Recent Developments

- Seniors Strategy was approved by Cabinet on October 18th, 2017.
    - The Cabinet minute approved all proposed net new initiatives and the release of a discussion paper, subject to TB/MBC approval prior to public announcement or public commitments.
- The Strategy is tracking to TB/MBC on the 31st, and fast-tracking to Cabinet on November 1st, to support the release of the discussion paper on November 7th,
- PO, TBS, MOF, and MOHLTC have agreed to language in the paper regarding long-term care homes that commits to 5,000 new beds by 2021-22 (as an “initial investment” and increasing the provincial average of care per resident to 4 hours of care daily, without a defined timeline.

Next Steps

- Final walk-through of discussion paper with CO, PO, TBS, MOF on October 30th.
- TB/MBC approval on Oct 31st, Cabinet ratification on Nov 1st.
- Release of discussion paper: Nov 7, 2017.

Key Risks

- Financial approvals and impact: The bulk of net new investments are in out-years, which will still need approval through PRRT process (October 31st TB minute can only note out-year requests); financial impact on the financial plan of 5,000 new beds in 2021-22 still TBD (outside 3-year planning window); no new financial investments in plan to support commitment to increase LTC staffing levels.
- Stakeholder expectations/response: limited stakeholder engagement in development of Strategy, and some stakeholders may find government commitments regarding LTC investments inadequate, leading to frustration. Government (MOHLTC) will need to carefully manage relationship and expectations with LTC sector stakeholders.

Health Updates

2016-17 LHIN Annual Reports

- For public release shortly after November 15th.

- None of the LHINs were able to meet or be within 10% of provincial target on all 14 performance targets; some do not have a strategy to manage
- Financial statements include $3.6M in new expenses to implement LHIN renewal; messaging was that there will be administrative savings.

- Annual reports represent ‘pre-transition’ year spending and performance; that performance targets are intended as ‘stretch goals’ and that performance/administrative savings is expected to be seen once LHIN renewal is implemented (i.e. likely beginning in the 2018-19 annual reports).

LHIN Renewal Implementation

- MOHLTC tracking to update HESP on LHIN Renewal implementation this fall (date TBD)
- Based on these outcomes, CO is tracking the LHIN renewal report-back to HESP on November 14th and Cabinet on the 15th (to align with the tabling of the LHIN annual reports), with the intent that the report-back would emphasize the ministry’s tactics for improving health system performance now that transition is complete

Opioids

- First meeting of the Opioids Emergency Task Force in early November
- MOHLTC is developing an integrated marketing campaign to address the Opioid crisis; includes: brochures provided at pharmacies, “wallet cards” on steps to take to address overdoses, and a digital/print campaign.

Cap and Trade / GreenON

GreenON

- Agency mandate letter, setting out expectations for 2018-19 fiscal year, including priority actions and agency performance, to be sent out week of October 31.
- Draft MOU between MOECC and GreenON prepared and in review process.
- HR consultant onboard. Insurance expected to be in place shortly.
- Discussions on expanding thermostat program underway with IESO and GreenON.
- Target GHG+ program – Transfer Payment Agreement and program design close to final. Preparation for program launch mid-November.

Cap and Trade

- Linking agreement with Quebec and California signed at Joint Cabinet meeting in late September 2017. MOECC tracking to TB November 14 and LRC November 20 with related regulatory amendments; markets would be linked as of January 1, 2018 with first joint auction planned for February 2018.
- Financial Approvals/Implementation
    - First Cap and Trade Auction (March 2017) raised $472 million.
    - Second Cap and Trade Auction (June 2017) raised $504 million.
    - Third Auction occurred September 6 and raised $526 million in.
- MOECC tracking to Oct 31 TB/MBC for release of funds associated with the third auction. Also presenting information item on GGRA spending to date.
- Continued heightened stakeholder interest, including from the Auditor General and the FAO, in how government invests cap and trade proceeds. ECO report release expected in the coming weeks.

Energy Issues

Long-Term Energy Plan

- Cabinet approved the final LTEP document and OEB/IESO implementation directives on October 25.
- LTEP and implementation directives released publicly October 26. Media coverage relatively neutral and primarily focused on the rate outlooks.
- IESO and OEB Implementation Plans due to Minister of Energy January 31, 2018 for approval.
- Risks: October 17 release of AG report on Fair Hydro Plan may place additional scrutiny on the LTEP and outlooks. Need for continual alignment between LTEP and CCAP work.

Fair Hydro Plan

- Auditor General released a special report on the Fair Hydro Plan on October 17. ENERGY provided a response to the AG and all remaining outstanding materials October 26.
- Ongoing work with agencies, LDCs and partners (including TBS/MOF/CO) on implementation requirements continues (biweekly meetings).
  - OIC authorizing the Ministers of Energy and Finance to issue the provincial guarantee under the plan was approved by Cabinet on September 27.
  - ENERGY will return to LRC/Cabinet on October 30 to seek approval of additional regulatory amendments related to implementation of the Fair Hydro plan.
  - Hydro One pilot on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment expected to start in November. ENERGY is tracking to LRC/Cabinet in December with a regulatory amendment on Fair Hydro Plan bill presentment for non-Hydro One customers.

Corrections and Strategy for Safer Ontario / Police Oversight Reform

Sapers Report/Corrections

- On September 26, the OHRC filed an expedited contravention application with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, alleging that the Ontario government breached the *Jahn* settlement. MCSCS responded to the OHRC's application on October 24, and is preparing draft minutes of settlement.
- MCSCS has agreed to report back to the Ombudsman every six months on its progress in addressing the *Out of Side, Out of Mind* report recommendations. MCSCS submitted its first report back on October 20.
- Remaining Approvals
    - TB/MBC November 14 and LRC December 11.
    - Introduction of new corrections legislation in December 2017
    - MOHLTC report back in spring 2018.

Strategy for a Safer Ontario/Reform

- The policing bill introduction planned for November 1 or 2.
    - Stakeholder engagement in the lead up to introduction continues.
- MCSCS continues to engage the IPC Office regarding data collection provisions in the policing bill.

Cannabis

Recent Developments

- On September 20, the Minister of Finance indicated that potential uniformity of pricing and taxation across Canada is being considered. A potential price point of $10 per gram was noted in media reports.
- Modernized Smoke Free Ontario included an approach for medical cannabis places of use (mirroring SFO approach).
- Cannabis Legalization Enforcement Summit on October 19 included 100+ law enforcement and public health experts, First Nations representatives and the federal government.
- AMO letter outlines preference for a private retail distribution model with municipal licensing.
- On October 27 - letters sent to municipalities to outline next steps for establishing retail stores (led by LCBO, working with the government and local communities).

Framework Implementation

- **Legislation Intro – November 1**

Other Provinces/Municipalities

- Only two provinces have committed to retail approach:
    - New Brunswick: announced Crown corporation would oversee retail;, signed supply deals (Organigram and Canopy Growth Corp); launched RPF for 15 retail locations (October 18th)
    - Alberta: narrowed options to either **government-owned and operated stores (**consistent with Ontario) or licensed and **regulated private sales** (Alberta alcohol-sales model).
- September 18, media reports that the City of Toronto's Licensing Committee is expected to recommend Council support the plan announced by Ontario and request support for enforcement and consult on issues including home grow

Transit Issues

RER procurement

- Procurement for enabling works ongoing until end of 2017 (13 AFP procurements and several traditional procurements).
- On June 14, 2017, Metrolinx issued the Notice of Commencement for the GO Electrification Environmental Assessment Transit Project Assessment Process.
- On July 21, 2017 Metrolinx issued an RFQ for RER operation and maintenance services.
    - On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx issued a notice that outlines possible changes to the RER Operations and Maintenance Request for Qualifications process. Metrolinx is considering a design/build/ finance/operate/maintain ("DBFOM") project delivery model, and intends to extend the existing RFQ deadline by approximately four weeks. An Addendum to the current RFQ is planned to be issued in late fall.

Hydrogen

- MTO/Metrolinx updating RER procurement strategy and explore viability of alternative propulsion technologies (TB/MBC Fall 2017).
- Metrolinx is undertaking exploratory work in several areas related to hydrogen:
    - On September 15, 2017, Metrolinx released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for concept design work to show how a hydrogen fuel cell system could be integrated into a Bi-level Electric Multiple Unit train.
    - Undertaking a Hydrail Feasibility Study, anticipated to be complete by the end of 2017.
    - Hosting a Hydrail Symposium, working with University of Toronto, in November to bring together fuel-cell industry leaders and explore the potential of applying the technology in electrifying the GO rail network.

Rail Rationalization

- Negotiations between Metrolinx and CN for Master Agreement on rail rationalization starting in Fall 2017 (TBC).
- EA for rail rationalization to begin in June 2018 (TBC).
- Discussions to be held between MOF and MTO on emerging tax issues related to CN

Regional Transportation Plan

- On September 14, 2017, the Metrolinx Board of Directors adopted and published a draft 2041 updated Regional Transportation Plan. MTO is coordinating inter-ministerial feedback in the draft RTP. Final plan expected to be adopted in Dec 2017.

High Speed Rail

- On October 17/18, 2017, MTO received TB/MBC and Cabinet approval to:
  - Proceed with Stage 1 (Planning) for High Speed Rail (HSR) with an estimated cost of $147M to $212M over six years, proposed to be offset from unallocated funding for the Outside Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (OGTHA) component of the Moving Ontario Forward plan; and
  - Establish a short-term (up to three years) HSR Planning Advisory Body to provide strategic advice, engage with the private sector, build partnerships and raise the profile of HSR in Ontario and around the world.
- The Planning Advisory Body will consist of 9-member board (including a Chair and Vice Chair).
- The HSR Planning Advisory Body would be established in late 2017 with the Chair being appointed first and the members shortly after.
- The Premier’s announced this on October 23, 2017.

Minimum Wage

Bill 148 Passage/Implementation

- *Amended Bill passed Second Reading on October 18, 2017 and was referred back to Standing Committee. The government will submit further motions to amend the bill.*
- Passage is expected before the House rises, with LRA and most ESA changes coming into force as of January 1, 2018 except minimum wage (see section below), equal pay (April 1, 2018), Scheduling (January 1, 2019) and exclusions (January 1, 2018 / January 1, 2019).
- MOL is proposing a package of transitional, consequential and substantive regulations for LRC approval in December 2017, with a proposed coming into force date of January 1, 2018.
- The exemptions review was launched on October 18th by way of new release and postings to the Regulatory Registry. Phase 1 of the review includes eight occupations under the ESA. MOL is planning to launch a second phase of the review in January 2018.

Minimum Wage

- October 1, 2017 the general minimum wage increased to $11.60 per hour following the Consumer Price Index (CPI) model.
- Pending passage of Bill 148, the general minimum wage will increase to $14 per hour on January 1, 2018 and $15 per hour on January 1, 2019. Special minimum wage rates would increase by the same proportion.
- Ministries, TBS and CO are working on assessing the impact of the minimum wage increase on the OPS and BPS. Most ministries have started compiling this information for their PRRT submissions.
- EDU received TB/MBC October 17 / Cabinet October 18 approval for $12.7 million in funding to address 2017-18 minimum wage impacts in the child care sector.

Key Risks

- Potential for unforeseen or unintended impacts given the scope of measures, timing of the implementation and lack of full stakeholder input on some aspects of the proposal (such as, minimum wage).

NAFTA

Recent Developments

- Round Four of the NAFTA modernization talks were held October 11 – 17.
- Negotiations were challenging with proposals from the US for a sunset clause; rules of origin requiring 50% American content and 85% North American regional value content for auto manufacturing; a weakening of dispute settlement provisions; and an end to Canada's supply management system for dairy, eggs, and poultry
- On October 14, Premier Wynne reiterated the importance of free trade and open borders and upheld Ontario's role in building an internationally competitive North American auto sector
- On October 15, Premier Wynne reaffirmed support for Ontario's farmers and producers, and defended the integrity of Canada's supply management system.
- On October 25, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross stated "We're asking two countries to give up some privileges that they have enjoyed for 22 years. And we're not in a position to offer anything in return,"

Next Steps

- Mexico will host the fifth round of talks in Mexico City from November 17-21, 2017. Additional negotiating rounds will be scheduled in 2018.
- Cabinet report back in November (tbd) with update, and any adjustments to the negotiating mandate (as required).

Key Risks

- NAFTA renegotiation involves existing trade rules within North America, creating a higher level of risk compounded by the greater level of uncertainty that surrounds these negotiations.
-