

RE: Review Needed: Reactive Statement

From: "Jancik, Mike (TBS)" </o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=jancik, mike (tbs)512">
To: "Tedesco, Lauren (TBS)" <lauren.tedesco@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2016 15:30:20 -0400

On the short statement, I think we should flow through the change that was made to the Minister's statement (it's not the whole public accounts, it's one accounting issue... suggest taking the language from the statement.

From: Tedesco, Lauren (TBS)
Sent: September 27, 2016 3:02 PM
To: Jancik, Mike (TBS)
Subject: Review Needed: Reactive Statement

Status Quo – if media pick up on Point of Order, looking for further info:

"Each year, the Public Accounts are released as part of the Province's commitment to being open and transparent. Public Accounts are prepared by the Treasury Board Secretariat and then independently audited by the Auditor General. At this time, there will be a delay in the tabling of Public Accounts due to ongoing discussions between public servants within Government and the Auditor General regarding the accounting treatment of Public Accounts. Officials are working hard to finalize the documents and I have directed senior Treasury Board officials to work with the Office of the Auditor General to develop a plan to finalize and table the Public Accounts as soon as possible. I am pleased to say that we are on track to meet our deficit targets."

If AG responds, speaks to content of disagreement:

Each year, the Public Accounts are released as part of the Province's commitment to being open and transparent. Public Accounts are prepared by the Treasury Board Secretariat and then independently audited by the Auditor General. At this time, there will be a delay in the tabling of Public Accounts due to ongoing discussions between public servants within Government and the Auditor General regarding the accounting treatment of Public Accounts.

At this time, there is one outstanding area of disagreement between the Government's accountants, controllerships and senior ministry officials and the Auditor General. I have directed senior Treasury Board officials to work with the Office of the Auditor General to resolve the issue and table the Public Accounts as soon as possible. I am pleased to say that we remain on track to meet our deficit targets.

Optional:

Ontario has consistently followed the same accounting treatment for the past 15 years. This had been accepted by three Auditors General, including the current Auditor General, across both Liberal and Conservative governments. The disagreement on the outstanding issue between accounting professionals is based on the application of an accounting treatment. Despite this disagreement, which I hope to have resolved quickly, I am pleased to say that we remain on track to meet our deficit targets.