Notes for Today

From: "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <"/o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=killorn, bill (opo)0f4">
To: "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 04 Oct 2016 09:45:51 -0400

Andrew,

Here are the notes for today.

Annual Report and unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (PREMIER)

- As part of our commitment to openness and transparency, we released the documents, despite the divergence in accounting opinions between Treasury Board Officials and the Auditor.

- We were very clear yesterday that we accepted the Auditor Generals numbers for this year.

- In the meantime, Treasury Board Officials are completing a review of this new assessment.

- Officials will also be engaging the expert accounting community to support a full understanding of the basis and nature of the differences

- Despite this, our deficit projection is still $700 million lower than the 2016 Budget projection, and $3.5 billion lower than the 2015 budget.

- This marks the 7th year in a row that Ontario has beaten its deficit target.

- We remain on track to balance the budget in 2017-18.

- We will continue moving forward with our plan to grow the economy and create jobs.

- We will continue investing in hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, and transit to build our province up.

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- There is a professional difference of opinion between accountants in the Treasury Board and the Auditor General.

- As we try to resolve this difference of opinion we are accepting the Auditor Generals deficit and debt numbers.

- Even when we accept the AG's numbers our deficit is $700M lower than our last projection and $3.5B lower than our original projection

- This is the 7th year in a row that we've beaten our deficit targets and we remain on track to balance the budget next year

- We've used the same accounting practices in Ontario when it comes to pension assets for the last 14 years.

- These practices have been signed off on by 4 different Auditor Generals including twice by the current Auditor.

- We have passed a new regulation taking the Auditor Generals view of our books for this year.

- And will be consulting with experts on how our pension assets should be accounted for moving forward.

- We want to be open and transparent about Ontario's financial position which is why we released the statements yesterday

<u>If asked about an $11B hole</u>

- We are accepting the Auditor Generals numbers

- Our deficit is $5B this year which is the 7th year in a row we've beaten our deficit targets

- Our pension plans are healthy and well-funded,

    - The OPSEU plan has a small surplus of assets and the teachers plan has a funding surplus of $13.2B