FW: Draft PER Statement

From:	"Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)" <lawvin.hadisi@ontario.ca>
To:	"Pichelli, Jason (TBS)" <jason.pichelli@ontario.ca>
Date:	Tue, 24 Apr 2018 19:18:21 -0400
Attachments:	Joint statement - PER - April 24 2018 - 641pm.docx (16.9 kB)

From: Miller, Amanda (TBS) <Amanda.Miller@ontario.ca>
Date: Tuesday, Apr 24, 2018, 6:52 PM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS) <Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca>
Cc: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS) <Bryant.J.Sullivan@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Draft PER Statement

Hi, Lawvin,

I have attached the revised statement, which includes input and approval from OPCD, TBS DM, TBS Communications, MOF DM, Office of the Budget, MENE DM and MENE Communications. You will note that the track changes are all tagged with attribution to me or Dane—we have worked to roll up everyone's input and approvals, which were received through a variety of emails this afternoon and evening.

The revisions reflected in the track changes capture some critical factual concerns about the accuracy of the AG's conclusion about the province's books, as well as the positioning of the FTAA. The group perceived the language around the AG's verification of the books somewhat misleading, without the greater context of the two ongoing accounting disputes. And, although Ontario was the first jurisdiction in Canada to introduce a pre-election report and currently remains one of only a few, it's not accurate to state that the FTAA was the first or only legislation of its kind (Nova Scotia and Quebec have similar legal instruments in place).

Our collective recommendation is to incorporate the recommended changes into the final statement issued by the ministers, to ensure an accurate picture of the issues is presented and to mitigate the risk of introducing inaccurate information into the public discussion.

Thank you for giving our teams and officials the opportunity to review the draft statement, and please don't hesitate to contact me this evening via email to discuss.

Kind regards,

Amanda

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Sent: April 24, 2018 4:50 PM
To: Miller, Amanda (TBS); Sullivan, Bryant (TBS)
Subject: RE: Draft PER Statement

Do we have an ETA on the fact check ?

From: Miller, Amanda (TBS)
Sent: April 24, 2018 11:35 AM
To: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS); Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)

Subject: RE: Draft PER Statement

Here is the new KM I have drafted around that piece, in case this helps:

- The Pre-Election Report on Ontario's Finances, introduced in 2007, was the first of its kind in Canada, and today remains one of only a few such documents in the world.

From: Sullivan, Bryant (TBS)
Sent: April 24, 2018 11:24 AM
To: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS); Miller, Amanda (TBS)
Subject: RE: Draft PER Statement

Thanks Lawvin, on super quick read I wonder if we need to play up more of the leadership messaging the M was interested in?

Also, it will be very important that we allow time for the proper ministry approvals – e.g. DMO and OPCD in particular. I would really like to share this with them now in the interest of time, does that work for you? If there are factual concerns I'd rather flag it now, rather than after ministers have approved.

From: Hadisi, Lawvin (TBS)
Sent: April 24, 2018 10:44 AM
To: Miller, Amanda (TBS); Sullivan, Bryant (TBS)
Subject: Draft PER Statement

Here you go.

It still needs to be approved by both Ministers.

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*********DRAFT

We thank the Auditor General for her response to the Pre-Election Report. The Treasury Board Secretariat and Ministry of Finance work closely with the OAG on a wide variety of issues on a regular basis, and her oversight and insight is welcomed both during our regular interactions and during the release of special reports, including this one.

Our government passed the Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act in 2004. The Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act is the only legislation of its type in the country and is reflective of our commitment to openness and transparency. Through the Pre-Election Report and the Office of the Auditor General's analysis, Ontarians are given the information they need to make an informed decision ahead of a provincial election.

The Pre-Election Report on Ontario's Finances presented the fiscal plan for 2018–19 to 2020–21 fiscal years. As verified by the Auditor General, Ontario's books are prepared in accordance with cautious assumptions that recognize the need for flexibility in the fiscal plan to respond to an ever changing world.

We know Ontario's economy has grown steadily in recent years, but we know that more must be done to encourage increased growth and create more jobs in an uncertain global economy. As we move forward, we must also ensure that the benefits from this growth are equally shared. The Ontario Liberal government has made a deliberate decision to invest in people – in high quality childcare, homecare, support for seniors and pharmacare, with OHIP+, for children, youth and seniors.

The OAG mentions two specific topics that represent ongoing conversations and technical accounting disputes between government and her office.

The government's position regarding the accounting of pension assets has long-since been supported by a panel of well-known experts, and we continue to acknowledge the appropriateness of the application of the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles when the Public Sector Accounting Board's standards are silent, as they are in this instance. The government's opinion on this matter has not changed.

Changes made to the IESO's accounting practices hinge on a technical disagreement regarding the agency's status as a rate regulated entity. As the change in the IESO's accounting practice has eliminated a second set of books that was previously kept, has brought greater transparency to $17b worth of transactions and furthermore is consistent with the accounting practices of the IESO's predecessor, the OPA, the government's opinion has not changed.

Lawvin Hadisi
Communications Advisor & Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Eleanor McMahon
President of Treasury Board
Lawvin.Hadisi@ontario.ca | 416.326.3839| 437.772.7821