

Treasury Board Secretariat
Question Period Report – Wednesday April 25, 2018

Questions:

1. MPP Fedeli (PC) to Premier and Minister McMahon (TBS) – re: The opening centres of the auditor general's blistering report says it all. The numbers from the Liberal government are, quote, not a reasonable presentation of Ontario's finances. There you have it, Speaker. Auditor Bonnie Lysyk revealed that Ontario's deficit this year is actually \$11.7 billion, up 5 billion from the numbers the Liberals just reported. They're off by 75%. Next year, they're off by 85% and the deficit grows to 12.2 billion. And the year after that the Liberals understate the number by almost 100% as the deficit hits 12.5 billion. The Liberal government cannot be trusted, Mr. Speaker. Will the government finally come clean about the true state of Ontario's finances?

2. MPP Fedeli (PC) to Premier and Minister Sousa (Finance) – re: The auditor said perception is created that the government has more money available than it actually does. The real deficit numbers are astounding and they are double what they told us in this House. \$11.7 billion next year. \$12.2 billion the year after that. \$12.5 billion the year after that. After they promised us that they would balance the budget. The deficit is out of control and the government -- They can heckle all they want but what they really want to do is pull the wool over the people of Ontarians' eyes. Will the **Premier** come clean and admit that the real numbers in her budget are double?

3. MPP Gelinas (NDP) to the Premier – re: Why don't you raise taxes, just a little, on the rich and powerful individuals and corporations to help pay for health care?

4. MPP Gelinas (NDP) to the Premier – re: As above.

5. MPP Fedeli (PC) to the Premier and Minister Sousa (Finance) and Minister McMahon (TBS) – re: This government had been warned for well over a year that what they were doing with our finances was not right. The financial

accountability office warned that because of the hydro scheme, MPP S should obtain assurance from the auditor that the province's accounting meets the public sector accounting standards. They were that worried, Speaker. The F.A.O. also stated that, beyond this year, expect a, quote -- significant increase in the budget deficit due to growing impact of the fair hydro plan. They knew, Speaker. The government knew that they were jeopardizing Ontario's fiscal position. They were told over and over. Speaker, why does this **Premier** and this government think they're above the rules?

- 6 MPP Vanthoff (NDP) to Minister McMahon (TBS) – re: First of all I'd like to thank the auditor general for her work on behalf of the people of Ontario. Today she reported that the government's pre-election -- that the government's pre-election report is, quote, not a reasonable presentation of Ontario's finances. And that's pardonly because the government is using a complicated private financing scheme to keep billions of dollars of hydro debts off the government's books. Not only does this scheme wa \$4 billion for no other purpose than to hide this debt. It clearly violates public accounting standards as the government knew it would. Why is the **Premier** hiding the truth about what his \$40 billion hydro borrowing scheme -- I withdraw. Why is the **Premier**, um -- Why is the **Premier** involved in this \$40 billion hydro scheme which will cost the public even more money?
- 7 MPP MacLeod (PC) to Minister Sousa (Finance) – re: Just like at Enron the secret hidden ledger was finally revealed, and when it was, the real deficit and the deficit figures are now accounted for. The net debt per Ontario resident is \$23,670 per person. Let me bring you back to 2003, when they were brought into office. It was only \$11,324. That figure is going to raise by \$24,950 per person next year, and \$26,240 per person the year after that. So this government is leaving my daughter and the next generation with an unsustainable amount of debt that is going to hurt our very core and valued public services. So I want to know why is this government, including that **Premier**, content with leaving our children over \$26,000 worth of debt because of their mismanagement?

