

Hansard: Fedeli to Sousa -- AG Report / FAO Report

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INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Fedeli: Thank you and good morning. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of finance. The financial accountability office showed us Ontario is working with three sets of books. Speaker. That is simply ridiculous. We need one set of books, one true set of numbers to guide us. There's a way to do this and that's for the government to follow the law, pass a regulation and release their pre-election finance report. The auditor general said, quote -- it's in the public interest for the government to if give us a pre-election report to examine as soon as possible, with sufficient time to do our work. This will give us one number, one set of books. Speaker, the government tell us when they will be bringing the regulation forward and when they will present the auditor with their pre-election finance reports?

>>Minister Sousa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason there is a pre-election report is because this government mandated it, because of the -- the fact that they held and hid a deficit throughout their proposals when they were coming into a budget. We are balancing the books, Mr. Speaker. I thank the F.A.O. acknowledges that our economy is growing, that we have taken steps to balance the budget. In fact public accounts, which is the one that matters most what has happened to this day, illustrates we beat again our targets last year by over \$2.3 billion. Under .1 billion in terms of our actual results so I acknowledge the work being done by the F.A.O. And I recognize that the member opposite, with his whole promises are unable to keep it because his own analysis state that they are not going to be able to achieve it. I will say more in the supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

>>MPP Fedeli: Back to the Minister. Families need to be able to trust what the government says about our finances. They deserve a true fiscal picture. That's only fair. But the auditor general has refused to sign off on Ontario's books multiple times under this Liberal government. The auditor has one more opportunity, and that's to review a pre-election finance report. First the government must pass a regulation confirming it will release a pre-election report by a committed deadline. We want one set of books so we can truly assess the damage the Liberals have done to Ontario. Speaker, I'll ask again, will the government tell us when they will be bringing the regulation forward and when they will present the auditor with their pre-election finance report?

>>Minister Sousa: Mr. Speaker, we are using the accounting principles that have been provided over the last 16 years. In fact an independent review the government's pension accounting and everything else commissioned illustrated by an expert panel, concluding that the province's accounting treatments are correct. I'll leave those disputes to the accountants but I'll say this, Mr. Speaker. Kevin Paige, the individual that assessed the people's guarantee, says the following -- assessing the reasonableness of the estimates of the fiscal plan underline the 2018 election platform of the Progressive Conservative party he says this -- -- the we caution readers the reasonableness of the estimates underlined in the fiscal plan includes reliance on the third party for information. He says we do not currently or we're not currently in a position to pronounce on those expectations. We look forward to seeing more detailed plans of the future. Their numbers are based on analysis, Mr. Speaker, and they are estimating a deficit with what we're saying is --

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.