Media Qs&As

Expert Advisory Panel

1. What will the Expert Advisory Panel do?

The Expert Advisory Panel's mandate is to deliver advice and recommendations to the government on the interpretation of PSAS related to the recognition and measurement of net pension assets. The Panel's advice and recommendations to the government will consider:

- application of control requirements with respect to recognizing a pension asset for a joint defined benefit plan and other plans.
- Appropriate valuation techniques to measure a pension asset which consider future decision making authority by plan sponsors.
- Possible recommendations to the Employee Future Benefits Task Force of the Public Sector Accounting Board on issues that should be considered in their review of the retirement and post-employment benefits standards.

The final report is expected to be submitted to the President of the Treasury Board by December 31, 2016.

2. When will the Panel's report be ready? Will this report be made public? What happens after that?

The Panel's recommendations to the President of the Treasury Board are expected by December 31, 2016 and will be made public in both English and French.

Commented [np1]: Worded differently since the final form of public release is unknown (full report? Summary? Etc.)

Commented [np2]: Necessary? Timing implications.

Other details for this response are in development.

3. Who will be on the Panel? How much are they going to be paid?

The membership of the Panel is expected to comprise accounting, legal, and pension experts in the areas of jointly sponsored pension plans, actuarial modelling for pension plans and Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The Chair and the members of the Panel will be compensated at $2,000 per diem for the Chair and $1,900 per diem for the members. Panel members will also be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their duties in accordance with Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet Directives and Guidelines.

Note that the Ministry will manage costs from within its existing allocation

4. **How much is this panel going to cost?**

The Province will be responsible only for the costs of the appointed members to attend the meetings and any people supporting the work of panel.

The total maximum budget has been established at $978,500.
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5. The panel won't have the authority to overrule the AG – what's the point?

As disclosed in the Statement of Responsibility in the Public Accounts of Ontario, the government has responsibility for the objectivity and integrity of the consolidated financial statements. In fulfilling this responsibility, the government needs to ensure that its accounting policies fairly reflect the economic substance of the government's transactions and activities. The outcome of the Panel's work will help to inform the government's decisions on future accounting policies related to pension plans.

6. Has the AG endorsed this panel? Will she be a part of it?

The Panel has been initiated by the government, independent of the Auditor General. The level of involvement, if any, of the Auditor General with the Panel will be at the discretion of the Panel

7. Isn't the Public Sector Accounting Board looking into this issue? Why create a panel?

The Public Sector Accounting Board has initiated a project task force to review current accounting standards related to accounting for employee future benefits. The outcome of the project may impact future accounting standards for pension plans; however, the issue that the Panel will address focuses on the interpretation of existing standards related to pension plans.