

September 25, 2018

Greg Orencsak
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor,
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

RE: FAO Information Request EC-2018EBO2: 2018 Fall Economic and Budget Outlook

Dear Deputy Minister Orencsak:

My mandate as Financial Accountability Officer is to provide the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with the economic and financial analysis it needs to perform its constitutional functions.

My staff are currently preparing analysis to support the FAO's bi-annual Economic and Budget Outlook (EBO) report. This work is undertaken under paragraph 10(1)(a) of the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013* (the Act), which allows the Officer to "provide, on his or her own initiative, an independent analysis to the Assembly about the state of the Province's finances, including the budget, and trends in the provincial and national economies."

As per subsection 12(1) of the Act, I request that your ministries provide me with information outlined in this letter by completing Attachment 3. Specifically, I am requesting that you direct your staff to provide me with the following background information by October 10, 2018:

1. Detailed information on one-time and other adjustments to revenue for 2017-18;
2. Detailed descriptions of the methodologies and background data used to estimate Ontario personal income tax, corporate tax and HST revenues as reported in the 2017-18 Public Accounts; and

In addition, immediately following the release of the 2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review, I request that you provide us with the following information related to the government's medium-term outlook and recovery plan:

3. Data on tangible capital assets stock, amortization expense and gross infrastructure expenditure by sector from 2017-18 to 2027-28;
4. Detailed revenue outlook to 2025-26 or latest year available from the 2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review;

5. Detailed expense outlook to 2025-26 or latest year available from the 2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review;
6. Details of changes by year to the revenue projection in the 2018 Ontario Economic Outlook to 2025-26 or latest year, since the 2018 Budget, including individual revenue or spending measures; and
7. Details of changes by year to the program spending projection in the 2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review to 2025-26 or latest year available since the 2018 Budget, including individual revenue or spending measures.

In addition, I request that your ministry complete Attachment 1 by outlining any restrictions that would prevent you from providing this requested information.

- If you believe that some or all of the requested information falls under the Cabinet records exception under subsection 12(2) of the FAO Act and that either the current or previous Executive Council has not consented to provide that information to the FAO in the Cabinet records orders-in-council (OC 1412/2016 or OC 1002/2018, Attachment 2), please describe the information in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1) and explain why you believe the Cabinet records exception prevents you from providing me with the information.
- If you believe that some or all the requested information falls under the personal information and/or personal health information exceptions under subsection 12(3) of the FAO Act, please describe the information in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1). Please explain why you believe that exception applies and why you have been unable to redact the information in accordance with subsection 12(4) of the FAO Act.

Regarding the information that your ministry provides to the FAO, I would ask that you assist me in fulfilling my disclosure responsibilities under section 13 of the FAO Act, OC 1412/2016 and OC 1002/2018. Under section 13 of the FAO Act, the FAO cannot disclose the information he obtains from a ministry or public entity under section 12 of the FAO Act unless the disclosure is essential for the performance of his mandate and the information does not fall under certain categories of sensitive records. Under OC 1412/2016 and OC 1002/2018, the FAO agrees not to disclose any information obtained from a ministry or public entity protected by section 12(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Attachment 2).

In order to assist me with my disclosure obligations, please answer the following questions in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1):

- If you believe that some or all of the information that you are providing in response to this request is subject to the disclosure restrictions under the Cabinet records orders-in-council (OC 1412/2016 and OC 1002/2018, Attachment 2), please clearly identify the information in question.

- If you believe that some or all of the information that you are providing in response to this request is subject to the disclosure restrictions in paragraphs 2, 3 and/or 4 of section 13 of the FAO Act, please clearly identify the information in question and identify which condition applies, citing the specific provision of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

If the restriction is intended to protect the interests of other public institutions, governments, third parties and/or legal privilege holders, please specifically identify any institutions, governments, third parties and/or legal privilege holders whose interests would be affected by the disclosure of the information.

I would appreciate if you could provide me with access to this information on or before October 10 or as otherwise noted in this letter and Attachment 3.

I have enclosed the *Guide to Responding to Information Requests from the FAO*, including the orders-in-council concerning Cabinet records (Attachment 2) to assist you with responding to this information request.

If you fail to comply with this information request, whether by failing to respond in a timely manner or by refusing to provide information without explaining which exception applies, I may inform the minister responsible for your ministry. If the minister is unable to resolve the matter, I may exercise my power under subsection 12(5) of the FAO Act to notify the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs of your failure to comply with this information request.

Please note that the cover letter accompanying your response to this request may be posted on the FAO website, but any attachments will not.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this request, I would ask that you contact Luan Ngo at Ingo@fao-on.org or by phone at 416-948-9783.

I would like to thank you for your assistance in this matter. My primary objective is to provide timely and relevant economic and financial analysis to the Legislative Assembly. My ability to do so depends on your providing me with free and timely access to the information held by your ministry that is necessary for me to perform my duties. By providing me with this information, you are assisting me in better supporting all MPPs.

Sincerely,

Original signed by



Peter Weltman
Financial Accountability Officer

Enclosures: 3

Attachment 1: EC-2018EBO2 Cover Spreadsheet

Attachment 2: EC-2018EBO2 Guide to Responding to FAO Requests; OC 1412/2016; OC 1002/2018

Attachment 3: EC-2018EBO2 Information Request

cc.

Tim Schuurman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 4th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7

Brian Lewis
Chief Economist and Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Economic Policy
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 5th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto ON M7A1Y7

David West
Chief Economist
Financial Accountability Office of Ontario
2 Bloor Street W, Suite 900
Toronto Ontario M4W 3E2