

February 23, 2017

Scott Thompson, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

RE: FAO Information Request FA1613-02f

Dear Deputy Thompson:

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.

I have received and accepted a research request from an MPP or a committee of the Assembly under paragraph 10(1)(b) of the *Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013* (the FAO Act), which allows me to respond to requests for “research into the Province’s finances and trends in the provincial and national economies”, “research into the estimates and supplementary estimates submitted to the Legislature”, “research into the financial costs or financial benefits to the Province of any public bill that is before the Assembly” and/or “undertake to estimate the financial costs or financial benefits of any proposal that relates to a matter over which the Legislature has jurisdiction, including any proposal made by the Government or by any member of the Assembly.”

This analysis examines the cost-effectiveness of the Province’s business support programs. Attachment 3 to this letter provides more information about the project.

I request that your ministry provide me with the following information, which I consider to be necessary to perform my duties under the FAO Act, as required by subsection 12(1) of the FAO Act:

- Please complete the enclosed Excel spreadsheet “Cover spreadsheet” in Attachment 1. Please respond to the “Information Request” in Attachment 4.
- 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 Cabinet has not consented to provide that information to the FAO in the Cabinet records order-in-council (OC 1412/2016, Attachment 2), please describe the information in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1) and explain why you believe the exception prevents you from providing me

with the information.

- 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 order-in-council (OC 1412/2016, Attachment 2), please clearly identify the information in question.
- If you believe that some or all of the requested information is 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), and 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.
- 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 in the Cover spreadsheet (Attachment 1), 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 it if you could provide me with this information on or before **March 17, 2017**.

I have enclosed the *Guide to Responding to Information Requests from the FAO*, including the Cabinet records order-in-council, (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 or by citing disclosure restrictions without explaining which restriction applies, I will inform the minister responsible for your ministry.

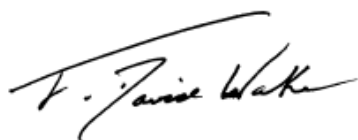
If the minister is unable to resolve the matter, I may exercise my power under subsection 12(5) of the FAO Act to notify the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs of your ministry's failure to do so.

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

Should you or your staff have any questions about the information request, or wish to arrange a meeting, I would ask that you contact Jeffrey Novak, Senior Director (FAO contact), who can be contacted directly at jnovak@fao-on.org or by phone at 416-528-3954.

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 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 serving the needs of all MPPs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. David Wake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable J. David Wake
Temporary Financial Accountability Officer

Enclosures: 4

Attachment 1: Cover Spreadsheet

Attachment 2: Guide to Responding to FAO Requests

Attachment 3: Project Backgrounder

Attachment 4: Information Request

CC:

Mr. Tim Schuurman

Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Budget

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7 Queen's Park Crescent East

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Mr. Peter Harrison

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