

July 26, 2017

Sophie Dennis, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour
400 University Ave, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

RE: FAO Information Request FA1713-01b

Dear Deputy Dennis:

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 am currently undertaking analysis under paragraph 10(1)(a) of the Financial Accountability Officer Act, 2013 (the FAO Act), which mandates the FAO 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.” This analysis focuses on the effects of the increase in the minimum wage, as proposed in Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, on employment and household income.

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

- Please provide any analysis that the ministry has done on the economic impacts of increasing minimum wage, as proposed in Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017.
- Please complete Attachment 1: Cover Spreadsheet to support the information request.
- 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 if you could provide me access to this information on or before August 9, 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, please contact Luan Ngo, at lngo@fao-on.org or 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 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'SLC', followed by two dots.

Stephen LeClair
Financial Accountability Officer

Enclosures:

Attachment 1: Cover Spreadsheet

Attachment 2: Guide to Responding to Information Requests from the FAO

CC:

Mr. Tim Schuurman
Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Budget
Frost Building South, 4th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent East
Toronto ON M7A1Y7