



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2018

Auditor General Issues “Clean” Opinion on Ontario’s Books

(TORONTO) For the first time in three years, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk issued a “clean” opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the Province of Ontario for fiscal 2017/18.

Lysyk outlined the return to an unqualified opinion in her *2018 Annual Report*, tabled in the Legislative Assembly today.

This year’s unqualified opinion came after the current government made two appropriate changes to the Province’s financial statements in two key areas to comply with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS).

First, the government recorded a full valuation allowance on the net pension assets relating to the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan and the Ontario Public Service Employees’ Union Pension Plan to reflect that it had no legal authority to draw on the assets as at March 31, 2018.

Second, the government excluded the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) market accounts from the Province’s consolidated financial position in 2017/18 and restated the comparative 2016/17 balances. This change included reversing the inappropriate use of rate-regulated accounting in connection with certain balances recorded by the IESO relating to Ontario’s electricity rate reduction in 2016/17.

“A ‘clean’ opinion means the members of the Legislature and the citizens of Ontario can rely upon the Province’s consolidated financial statements to make important decisions,” Lysyk said after her Report was tabled in the Legislature.

Lysyk’s Report also highlighted that the IESO recently appointed her Office as its attest auditor for the year ended December 31, 2018, and that the Crown corporation will be retroactively adjusting its 2016 and 2017 financial statements to remove electricity market accounts and reverse the use of rate-regulated accounting.

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Read the [Chapter 2: Public Accounts of the Province](#) audit report at www.auditor.on.ca

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