



Fact Sheet

- The *Auditor General Act* states: “The Auditor General shall express his or her opinion as to whether the consolidated financial statements of Ontario ... present fairly information in accordance with appropriate generally accepted accounting principles and the Auditor General shall set out out any reservations he or she may have.”
- For the first time in 23 years, the Province received a qualified audit opinion on its 2015/16 Public Accounts.
- A qualified opinion from the Auditor General means there are issues with the government’s reporting, and a clean audit opinion means there are no issues of consequence.
- The Ontario government Pension Asset Advisory Panel reports, “Both the OTTP (Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan) and OPSEUPP (Ontario Public Sector Employees’ Union Pension Plan) are jointly defined benefit plans ... (and) the sponsors must agree on all decisions about the important features of the plan, including valuation assumptions, how shortfalls (deficits) are to be made up and how the benefits of overfunding (surpluses) are to be shared.”
- The Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan financial statements show a liability position, not a surplus.
- The Auditor’s position on the pension issue is this: The Province needs a letter as evidence that it has the agreement of both OPSEU and the Ontario Teachers’ Federation on behalf of the teachers as to whether the Province can access \$10.7 billion of surplus from their respective pensions.
- British Columbia and New Brunswick—the other two provinces with public pension surpluses—do not treat the accounting surplus as a net accounting asset.
- Breakdown of pension surplus as at March 31, 2016, according to the Province:
 - Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan: \$10.147 billion; and
 - OPTrust (the pension plan for OPSEU members): \$521 millionfor a total of \$10.668 billion.
- OPSEU’s pension plan includes 87,000 current and former members while the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan includes 316,000 active and retired teachers.