



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2015

Government Late to Release Annual Reports of its Agencies: Auditor General

(TORONTO) The annual reports of some of the Ontario government's biggest agencies are not being made public in a timely manner—or not at all, in some cases—Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says in her *2015 Annual Report*.

“Members of the Legislative Assembly and Ontarians have every right to see these annual reports promptly,” Lysyk said today after her Report was tabled in the Legislature. “However, many of these reports were not publicly available for more than a year.”

The findings, in a new chapter of the Auditor General's Annual Report called *Toward Better Accountability*, examined the process by which agencies submit annual reports, which contain financial information and details about an agency's activities for a given year, to their responsible ministries, and how the ministries make these reports public.

Most provincial agencies are required to submit annual reports to their ministers within a specified time. Ministers are then to review the reports and make them public, either by tabling them in the Legislature or approving them for public release on an agency or government website.

However, a review of 57 agencies over the past three years found that only 5% were tabled within six months of their fiscal year-end. Another 68% of the reports were tabled in the Legislature more than 12 months after their fiscal year-end, and 6% had not been tabled at all. For the majority, the delay was at the ministry, which had received the reports but not acted in a timely manner to make them public.

The Auditor General also noted that a new directive that came into effect in February 2015 eliminates the requirement for ministers to table provincial agencies' annual reports in the Legislature (unless required by legislation), but will require public posting on a website after ministerial approval. However, the directive provides no time frame for ministerial approval of reports for public release.

Lysyk noted that some measure of accountability may be lost if elected officials are not also formally notified in the Legislature when reports become publicly available.

-30-

For more information, please contact:
Bonnie Lysyk
Auditor General
(416) 327-1326

For more information and to view the full report, please visit www.auditor.on.ca

The Office of the Auditor General is an independent Office of the Legislative Assembly that conducts value-for-money and financial audits of the provincial government, its ministries and agencies. We also audit organizations in the broader public sector that receive provincial funding. Our vision is to deliver exceptional value and assurance to members of the Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and all Ontarians through high-quality work that promotes accountability, value for money and effective governance in the Ontario public sector.