

From: Todd Ross

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SUBJECT: Ontario Cabinet Committee Information

The McGuinty government has started the second mandate in Ontario and publicity surrounding the new cabinet and parliamentary assistants is wide.

One aspect of the government structure that has not received wide attention but is a major aspect of the government's decision making model is the cabinet committees and the cabinet policy committees.

The cabinet committees are made up of members of the cabinet but also include government caucus members. This inclusion began in 2003 as a desire by the Premier to ensure that every government member played a role in the government in addition to their constituency responsibilities.

Priorities and Planning Board

A major change in the second mandate is the evolution of the Priorities and Planning Board of Cabinet, commonly referred to as P&P. In the first mandate, the P&P was seen as an executive arm of the cabinet or 'inner cabinet'. The P&P consisted of the Ministers of Finance, Health, Education, Government Services, Energy, the caucus chair and the Premier.

The Premier has announced that the new P&P "will be called as needed to deal with emerging challenges. Membership will be determined on an issue-by-issue basis."

Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction:

Highly publicized, the Premier has established a cabinet committee with a goal to fight poverty over the course of the government's four year mandate. The new minister of Children and Youth Services, the Honourable Deb Matthews is to chair a new cabinet committee on poverty. In the previous government Deb Matthews played a key political role as the President of the Ontario Liberal Party while she completed her PhD in social demography at the University of Western Ontario

The committee on poverty will:

Work to develop poverty indicators and targets, and a focused strategy for reducing child poverty and lifting more families out of poverty.

Notably absent from a committee established to fight poverty is the Minister and Parliamentary Assistant of Aboriginal Affairs – due to this omission, committee members will need to hear from First Nations first hand to ensure that First Nations are included in the strategy to fight poverty.

Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction

Chair:	Hon Deb Matthews	Minister of Children and Youth Services
Vice-Chair:	Hon George Smitherman	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Members:	Hon Dwight Duncan	Minister of Finance, Chair - Management Board of Cabinet
	Hon Kathleen Wynne	Minister of Education, Chair of Cabinet
	Hon Jim Watson	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
	Hon Madeleine Meilleur	Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
	Hon Chris Bentley	Attorney General
	Hon Michael Chan	Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
	Hon John Milloy	Minister of Training Colleges and Universities
	Bas Balkissoon	PA, Ministry of Health
	Carol Mitchell	PA, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	David Oraziotti	PA, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
	Lou Rinaldi	PA, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
	Bruce Crozier	MPP Essex

Cabinet Committee on Treasury Board and Management Board:

This cabinet committee on Treasury Board and Management Board provides advice on how the government manages its money, people and other resources. The committee authorizes spending plans by ministries and approves the government's human resources and information technology plans and also makes decisions about government land and buildings.

Cabinet Committee on Treasury Board and Management Board

Chair:	Hon Dwight Duncan	Minister of Finance, Chair - Management Board of Cabinet
Vice-Chair:	Hon David Caplan	Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Members:	Hon Gerry Philips	Minister of Energy
	Hon Monique Smith	Minister of Revenue
	Hon Ted McMeekin	Minister of Government and Consumer Services
	Wayne Arthurs	PA, Ministry of Finance
	Liz Sandals	PA, Ministry of Education

Cabinet Committee on Emergency Management:

The cabinet committee on Emergency Management is chaired by the Premier and provides advice on provincial emergency planning efforts and guides emergency preparedness decisions. The committee also studies best practices in other jurisdictions that may be borrowed for use in Ontario.

Cabinet Committee on Emergency Preparedness

Chair:	Hon Dalton McGuinty	Premier
Vice-Chair:	Hon Ted McMeekin	Minister of Government and Consumer Services
Members:	Hon George Smitherman	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
	Hon Gerry Phillips	Minister of Energy
	Hon Chris Bentley	Attorney General
	Hon Jim Watson	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
	Hon Donna Cansfield	Minister of Natural Resources
	Hon Rick Bartolucci	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
	Hon Leona Dombrowsky	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
	Hon Sandra Pupatello	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
	Laura Albanese	PA, Ministry of Culture
	Leeanna Pendergast	PA, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
	Dr. Shafiq Qadri	MPP, Etobicoke North

Cabinet Committee on Legislation and Regulation:

The cabinet committee on Legislation and Regulation or “Legs and Regs” review all government legislation prior to its introduction to the Legislature to ensure the bill consistent with the governments agenda.

Once a bill has become law, the “legs and regs” committee review the regulations that affect how legislation is implemented. Regulations are proclaimed separate from the legislation and in some cases the regulation may never be proclaimed.

Cabinet Committee on Legislation and Regulation

Chair:	Jeff Leal	PA, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
Vice-Chair:	Phil McNeely	PA, Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Members:	Hon John Gerretsen	Minister of the Environment
	Hon Rick Bartolucci	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
	Hon Chris Bentley	Attorney General
	Hon Jim Watson	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
	Hon Aileen Carroll	Minister of Culture, Minister Responsible for Seniors
	Hon Peter Fonseca	Minister of Tourism
	Hon Margaret Best	Minister of Health Promotion
	Mike Brown	PA, Ministry of Transportation
	Dr. Kuldip Kular	PA, Ministry of Long-Term Care
	David Zimmer	PA, Attorney General
	Bob Delaney	PA, Ministry of Research and Innovation
	Yasir Naqvi	PA, Ministry of Community Safety
	Joe Dickson	MPP, Ajax – Pickering

Policy Committee on Justice, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs:

The policy committee on Justice, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs has a broad mandate around justice issues including “being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, while providing justice for all”

For First Nations, this committee is charged with:

Building a stronger, more positive relationship with Ontario's First Nations, this committee will help guide the government's efforts to improve quality of life and expand economic opportunities for all Aboriginal peoples.

Additionally, the committee is charged with playing “an important role ensuring that Ontarians have fair access to services provided by the federal government” – presumably this refers to the Premier’s ongoing campaign to narrow the “unfair federal funding practices.” The committee is also responsible for the planning of funding transfers to municipalities – a report due in the spring of 2008 is to provide suggestions on what municipal areas should be funded by the provincial government

Policy Committee on Justice, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

Chair:	Laurel Broten	PA, Ministry of Health
Vice-Chair:	Mario Sergio	PA, Ministry of Housing
Members:	Hon Michael Bryant	Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
	Hon David Caplan	Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
	Hon Chris Bentley	Attorney General
	Hon Jim Watson	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
	Hon Rick Bartolucci	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
	Hon Monique Smith	Minister of Revenue
	Hon Michael Chan	Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
	Bill Mauro	PA, Minister of Natural Resources
	Amrit Mangat	PA, Minister Responsible for Seniors
	Kim Craitor	PA, Ministry of Energy
	Lorenzo Berardinetti	MPP, Scarborough Southwest
	Sophia Aggelontis	PA, Ministry of Small Business and Entrepreneurship
	Pat Hoy	MPP, Chatham – Kent Essex

Policy Committee on Health, Education and Social Services:

Reviews and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the Health, Education and Social Service policies and programs that the government delivers.

Policy Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

Chair:	Linda Jeffrey	PA, Citizenship and Immigration
Vice-Chair:	Lou Rinaldi	PA, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Members:	Hon Michael Bryant	Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
	Hon George Smitherman	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
	Hon Margaret Best	Minister of Health Promotion
	Hon Kathleen Wynne	Minister of Education
	Hon John Milloy	Minister of Training Colleges and Universities
	Hon Madeleine Meilleur	Minister of Community and Social Services
	Hon Deb Matthews	Minister of Children and Youth Services
	David Oraziotti	PA, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
	Dr. Kuldip Kular	PA, Ministry of Long-Term Care
	Helena Jaczek	PA, Health Promotion
	Jim Brownell	PA, Ministry of Tourism
	Khalil Ramal	PA, Ministry of Community and Social Services
	Mike Colle	MPP, Eglinton – Lawrence
	Tony Ruprecht	MPP, Davenport

Policy Committee on Economic, Environmental and Resources:

Reviews and makes recommendations to Cabinet on the Economy, Environment and Natural Resource policies and programs that the government delivers.

Policy Committee on Economic, Environmental and Resources

Chair:	Dave Levac	Pa, Ministry of Correctional Services
Vice-Chair:	Maria Van Bommel	PA, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Members:	Hon Sandra Pupatello	Minister of Economic Development and Trade
	Hon Harinder Takhar	Minister of Small Business and Entrepreneurship
	Hon Donna Cansfield	Minister of Natural Resources
	Hon Michael Gravelle	Minister of Northern Development and Mines
	Hon Leona Dombrowsky	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
	Hon John Gerretsen	Minister of the Environment
	Hon Gerry Phillips	Minister of Energy
	Hon Brad Duguid	Minister of Labour
	Hon Jim Bradley	Minister of Transportation
	Hon John Wilkinson	Minister of Research and Innovation
	Hon Aileen Carroll	Minister of Culture
	Hon Peter Fonseca	Minister of Tourism
	Monte Kwinter	PA, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
	Jean-Marc Lalonde	PA, Economic Development and Trade
	Reza Moridi	PA, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities
	Kevin Flynn	PA, Ministry of the Environment
	Charles Souza	PA, Government and Consumer Services
	David Ramsay	MPP, Timiskaming – Cochrane