



7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7
Telephone: 416-325-0400

7^e étage, Édifice Frost Sud
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto ON M7A 1Y7
Téléphone: 416-325-0400

Ms. Heather Zordel
Chair
Ontario Securities Commission
20 Queen Street West, 22nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3S8

Dear Ms. Zordel:

I am pleased to share our government's 2023-24 priorities for the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC).

As Chair of the Board, you play a vital role in helping the OSC achieve its mandate. It is important that your agency's goals, objectives, and strategic direction continue to align with our government's priorities and direction. As part of the government of Ontario, agencies are expected to act in the best interests of the people of Ontario and ensure that they provide value for money to taxpayers. Agencies are also required to adhere to government policies and directives.

Per the requirements of the Agencies and Appointments Directive, this letter sets out my expectations for the OSC for 2023-24. These priorities include:

1. Competitiveness, Sustainability and Expenditure Management

- Identify and pursue opportunities for innovative practices and/or improved sustainability.
- Operate within the OSC's approved budget.
- Comply with applicable direction related to supply chain centralization, including contract harmonization for planned and pending procurements, accounting practices and realty interim measures for agency office space.
- Leverage and meet benchmarked outcomes for compensation strategies and directives.

2. Transparency and Accountability

- Abide by applicable government directives and policies and ensuring transparency and accountability in reporting.

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- Adhere to accounting standards and practices, and responding to audit findings, where applicable.
- Identify appropriate skills, knowledge and experience needed to effectively support the board's role in agency governance and accountability.

3. Risk Management

- Develop and implement an effective process for the identification, assessment, and mitigation of agency risks, including COVID-19 impacts and any future emergency risks.

4. Workforce Management

- Optimize the OSC's organizational capacity to support the best possible public service delivery, including redeploying resources to priority areas, where needed.

5. Diversity and Inclusion

- Develop and encourage diversity and inclusion initiatives by promoting an equitable, anti-racist and diverse workplace.
- Adopt an inclusion engagement process to ensure all voices are heard to inform policies and decision-making.

6. Data Collection

- Improve how the OSC uses data in decision-making, information-sharing and reporting, to inform outcome-based reporting and improve service delivery.
- Increase data sharing with Supply Ontario when applicable regarding procurement spending and planning, contract arrangements and vendor relations to support data-driven decision-making.

7. Digital Delivery and Customer Service

- Explore and implement digitization for online service delivery to ensure customer service standards are met.
- Use a variety of approaches or tools to ensure service delivery in all situations, including pursuing delivery methods that have evolved since COVID-19.

These are the government-wide commitments for board-governed provincial agencies. Please see the attached guide for further details of each priority.

I am also sharing several priorities specific to the OSC:

1. Continuing to support implementation of recommendations from the Capital Markets Modernization Taskforce's Report to the extent that they align with government priorities.
2. Engaging market participants with the objective of supporting innovation and promoting capital formation through the Office of Economic Growth and Innovation.

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3. Taking a leadership role in securities regulation to foster fair, efficient and competitive capital markets in Ontario and Canada, including in new and emerging digital asset sectors.
4. Strengthening investor protections while identifying opportunities to enhance the competitiveness of Ontario.
5. Working with regulatory partners in identifying, addressing, and mitigating systemic risk and promoting stability.
6. Conducting its affairs with a focus on ensuring efficiencies and red tape reduction are a priority for all internal and external processes.
7. Enhancing transparency by ensuring that qualitative and quantitative analysis of anticipated costs and benefits of a proposed rule would be provided within the OSC's rule publications and shared as part of the consultations on the proposal to better inform public comments and the rule-making process.
8. Explore opportunities to collaborate with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario as you fulfill your respective mandates.

I would be pleased to discuss these priorities during our next meeting, and I look forward to hearing how they will be reflected in the OSC's upcoming business plan and in ongoing agency operations.

Thank you and your fellow board members for your continued commitment to the OSC. Your work and ongoing support is invaluable to me and the people of Ontario.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Clark, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance at (647) 309-5714 or richard.clark@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance

Attachment: Government Priorities for Agency Sector Chart

- c. Richard Clark, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance
Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister of Finance
Nancy Mudronic, Associate Deputy Minister, Office of Regulatory Policy and Agency Relations, Ministry of Finance
Francisco Chinchon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Financial Services Policy Division, Ministry of Finance
Tom McKinlay, Director, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Finance