

## Treat our money with respect

In a nearly 600-page report delivered last week, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk detailed how the provincial government has wasted taxpayer money at virtually every turn.

Among the key findings in this annual watchdog assessment of government operations were:

- The provincial debt (\$267 billion as of last March) will reach \$325 before the Liberals have pledged to stop running deficits in 2017.
- At \$1.9 billion, the smart metre program has cost nearly twice as much as first planned and produced little result.
- Public-private partnerships have cost taxpayers \$8 billion more in borrowing costs and other expenses than if they had been public funded.
- Only about half of licensed daycares have staff criminal background checks on file.
- Nearly 14 years after the Walkerton water tragedy, many of the tainted water inquiry recommendations remain unfulfilled.

Though the government will undoubtedly argue the validity of some of the auditor general's findings, there's no question Lysyk's office revealed many troubling problems that must be addressed.

It's time for the government (all governments) to stop their duck-cover-and-deflect approach to such reports and get down to making meaningful improvements.

Our money should be treated with respect.

### WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca))

Do you have your Christmas shopping done?

- No... haven't even started (58%)
- Yes... ages ago (42%)

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## Letters to the editor

### Some roads need better signals

A count-down signal is required for the street light on Mountainview and 10 Sideroad intersection.

I would like to express my concerns for the intersection of Mountainview and 10 Sideroad. It is great that a red-light camera is installed at the intersection to catch those motorists who disobey the law by running the red light.

In addition to this, I will like to suggest an installation of a count-down signal or meter which indicates (by countdown) to motorists the exact time when the light will change from green to yellow (amber), and then to red and vice-versa.

Currently, it is quite difficult to know when the change will occur while drivers are driving by.

The lights change so quickly one can hardly escape being captured by the red-light camera.

It is even more difficult to anticipate the light change and slow down or stop during winter weather or snowfall, when the light changes quickly.

Drivers want to avoid running red

lights and as well avoid accidents.

Installing the count-down signal will go a long way in helping the drivers to anticipate the traffic light changes, and as well prepare ahead of time to stop at the intersection, thus avoid running the red light and inability to stop or at least slow down during snowy or slippery conditions, when the lights change very fast.

The Region or the Town, whoever has the responsibility should please assist and look into this situation and install the countdown signals at the intersection.

Boye Abdul,  
Georgetown

### So much gone in so little time

So much destroyed in so little time. Harper's Conservatives have doled out over \$2.4 billion for undisclosed contracts.

According to the *Toronto Star's* investigation, we have no idea of the tendering process, what work was done, or the results.

Add this lack of transparency to secrete

tive Supreme Court appointments, contempt of Parliament charges and stacking — not reforming — the Senate (as promised), it is clear there is a renegade posse in power.

When former PMs (even Conservatives) begin a chorus of criticism, we are neck-deep.

While Tony Clement laughably claims "Our government is the most transparent in government history," Harper et al wastes our money dragging First Nations bands into court because 48 of 582 have not produced audited statements online.

Diane Ballantyne,  
Fergus

### Letters policy

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