

SO.... YOUR CFO IS ATTENDING A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE...

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BEFORE WE START

- ▶ Focus is on the CFO role and how to best support them
- ▶ NOT a course on committees
- ▶ Providing the perspective of ONE CFO, your CFO may have different views
- ▶ Hope to be provocative and spark discussion

OUTLINE

- ▶ Different kinds of committees
- ▶ When is CFO called to a Parliamentary Committee?
- ▶ Differences during the pandemic
- ▶ How to prepare - Partnerships / Binders / Materials
- ▶ Dealing with difficult questions / awkward situations
- ▶ Questions

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

- ▶ House of Commons Committees
 - ▶ Members of Parliament, representative of HoC
 - ▶ Highly politicized
 - ▶ Often Minister and DM are invited with CFO if Financials needed
- ▶ Senate Committees
 - ▶ Senators
 - ▶ Less politicized, but still political
 - ▶ Typically CFO is called around Estimates as the Main Player
- ▶ Cabinet Committees (super rare for CFOs)

WHEN IS THE CFO CALLED?

- ▶ Usually when money is involved
- ▶ Critical part of the Estimates and Supply process
 - ▶ Main Estimates, Supps A, B, and C
- ▶ When something very large is being studied
 - ▶ i.e. CERB or legislative bills
- ▶ When something very controversial is being examined / discussed
- ▶ Auditor General Reports

DIFFERENCES DURING PANDEMIC

- ▶ In person versus remote access
 - ▶ Pros and cons with each approach
 - ▶ Changed how many people could participate
 - ▶ Preparation remained mainly the same
 - ▶ Differences were in how CFO was supported

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CFO

- ▶ Communications and Partnerships
 - ▶ Parliamentary Affairs
 - ▶ Program / Policy areas (identify who should be there)
 - ▶ Central agencies (TBS / FIN)
 - ▶ Estimates – Often TBS (EMS) and FIN are called prior to departments – share information
 - ▶ Ministers and DMs Preparation
 - ▶ Don't make assumptions
 - ▶ Ensure all are in agreement regarding roles

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CFO (CONT'D)

▶ Binders / Material

- ▶ Hot topics
- ▶ G&C information
- ▶ Clear and concise format (it's about balance)
 - ▶ Easily searchable
 - ▶ Ensure program sign off
- ▶ Consistent information
- ▶ Link to actual documents that members see (i.e. Estimates pages in both English **and** French)
- ▶ Sample Q&As

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS / AWKWARD SITUATIONS

- ▶ Happens more often than you may think
 - ▶ Questions can be extremely random
- ▶ Preparing for interaction between public service and political level
 - ▶ Understanding the motivations
- ▶ Controlling / calibrating your message
- ▶ Prepare your CFO as best you can

QUESTIONS ?
& THANK YOU !!



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