

CO Top Issues for May 8, 2017

From: "Herman, Alan (MCI)" <alan.herman@ontario.ca>
To: "@MCI-L-OSS All Staff" <ontariosenior'ssecretariat@mcl.gov.on.ca>, "@MCI-L-Comm-OSS-MO Top Issues" <mci.l.comm.oss.motopissues@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "@MCI-L-Comm-MCI Top Issues" <mci-l-comm-mcitopissues@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "@MCI-L-Comm-MCI-MO Top Issues" <mci.l.comm.mci.mo.top.issues@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 08 May 2017 09:28:57 -0400
Attachments: 2017.05.08.docx (69.98 kB)

Top Issues

May 8, 2017

[CALENDAR](#)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Hundreds of Homes Evacuated Due to Ottawa River Flooding

Issue: Over 55,000 Home Sites are Approved and Construction-Ready in GTA

Issue: Continuing Social Housing Budget Reaction From City of Toronto

Issue: Windsor Chamber of Commerce Joins Call to Suspend Cap-and-Trade

Issue: Outspoken Critics of the Government Elected as New OMA Leaders

Issue: CEO of Registered Nurses Association of Ontario Calls for More RNs

Issue: SMBs Still Struggling With Electricity Costs Despite Financial Aid

Issue: Uber Hires Researchers To Create Driverless Car Technology In Toronto

Issue: Judge Wants Police To Justify Inmate Transfer Delay Policy

Issue: Foster Care Deaths Sparks Call for Urgent Change

Issue: Daycare Centres Continue To Go Vacant Due To Financial Issues

Issue: Home Capital Board Member Has Close Ties With Provincial Government

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

CALENDAR

May 8, 2017

Premier Wynne to meet with Mayor Jeffrey and hold a media avail

9:00 a.m. / Toronto: Premier Kathleen Wynne to meet with Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey. Media availability at 9:30 a.m. in Room 247. (Room 281, Main Legislative Building)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario to release evidence about RN effectiveness

9:30 a.m. / Toronto: Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) releasing a comprehensive database of 70 years of evidence about RN effectiveness. (Media Studio, Queen's Park)

NDP Leader Horwath and Mayor Tory to tour a TCHC residential building in need of repair

10:00 a.m. / Toronto: Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath joins Toronto Mayor John Tory on a tour of Toronto Community Housing Corporation residential building in urgent need of repair. (375 Bleecker Street)

Premier Wynne to attend Question Period

10:30 a.m. / Toronto: Premier Wynne attends Question Period.

Minister Hunter to make an announcement

12:45 p.m. / Toronto: Ontario Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter makes an announcement. Live webcast:<http://www.mediaevents.ca/canadianclub/20170508> (Canadian Club of Toronto, Royal York Hotel, Imperial Room, 100 Front Street West)

Minister Del Duca, MPP Dong to make a transit announcement

1:00 p.m. / Toronto: Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, and Han Dong, MPP for Trinity-Spadina, will make a transit announcement. They will be joined by John Jensen, Metrolinx President and CEO, and Josh Colle, TTC Chair. (Shoppers Drug Mart, 901 King Street West)

MPP Moridi to make an announcement

1:30 p.m. / Markham: MPP Reza Moridi makes an announcement. (IBM Innovation Space - Markham Convergence Centre, 3600 Steeles Avenue East)

Premier Wynne to meet with the ambassador to China

3:15 p.m. / Toronto: Premier Kathleen Wynne meets with John McCallum, ambassador to China. (Room 281, Main Legislative Building)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Hundreds of Homes Evacuated Due to Ottawa River Flooding

☐ As the Ottawa River rose to record levels on Sunday, hundreds of people on both sides of the river abandoned their home amidst the floodwaters.

☐ Ottawa has activated its emergency operations, but has not declared a formal state of emergency.

☐ The city has received voluntary assistance from the province. Federal Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale tweeted that the federal government would provide emergency materials requested by the province.

☐ The City of Ottawa has formally asked the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to activate the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program which could provide financial assistance to residents to help recover emergency expenses and costs of repair caused by

the flood.

☐ The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board say the river rose 17 centimeters at Gatineau and was expected to increase another 5 centimeters before Monday. The peak is expected to be reached on Monday.

☐ In Ottawa, nearly 100 residents have been displaced and approximately 200 homes have been affected by the flood in Constance Bay.

☐ Federal and provincial offices on the Quebec side will remain closed on Monday to help clear the way for emergency workers. Canadian Force troops arrived in Gatineau on Saturday night to help emergency services reach people stuck by the waters.

☐ Gatineau Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin says 741 residents were displaced from their homes and 411 homes were evacuated as of Sunday.

☐ Hydro-Quebec has intentionally cut power at some homes, and the Hull and Gatineau hospitals have cancelled certain procedures because of the floods.

☐ Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée, Quebec's Minister responsible for West Quebec issues, suggested that anyone who can work from home should do so to avoid blocking the road.

Newspapers: "100 Home Evacuated; Troops in Action," Ottawa Sun, Andrew Seymour, A2.

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Over 55,000 Home Sites are Approved and Construction-Ready in GTA

☐ The Ontario government says over 55,000 sites for detached homes, semidetached and townhouses are approved and almost construction-ready across the Greater Toronto Area (excluding the city of Toronto itself). The province says that of these sites, 12,268 were registered, approved and ready for building permits that could be issued "immediately".

☐ This finding adds to the debate regarding whether Ontario's Growth Plan, which forces municipalities to grow more densely, has caused a shortage of serviced land connected to main water and sewer lines, and has driven up GTA home prices.

☐ The development industry and some economists claim that municipalities have been approving too many high-rise condominiums and apartments.

☐ According to the government's new figures, there is enough serviced land to build 56,762 new units of ground-related housing in GTA areas over the next three years.

☐ The Ministry of Municipal Affairs says these units represent 3.85 years' worth of supply, much more than the mandated three year minimum supply of serviced land.

☐ If draft-approved, registered and unbuilt sites for condominiums and apartments are also considered, there were 70,675 units in the GTA and Hamilton (excluding Toronto) which could get building permits within the next three years.

☐ Bryan Tuckey, chief executive officer of the Building Industry and Land Development Association, acknowledged that a lack of serviced land "may not be the key driver any more" and suggested that red tape may be the cause of delays.

☐ Tuckey says that builders are not intentionally sitting on land and delaying construction in efforts of gaining larger profits.

☐ Tuckey says, the province's figures are based on out-of-date or incomplete information and suggests that most of the registered units ready for immediate construction have likely already been sold.

☐ A spokesman for Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs, reiterated the government's plans to improve the approval process to ensure bureaucratic delays are not the cause of lack of supply. He says, "through these and other initiatives, we are working to promote housing supply by ensuring that approved housing units are built as quickly as possible."

Newspapers: "Thousands of sites for homes sit shovel-ready in Toronto area," Globe and Mail, Jeff Gray, A1.

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Continuing Social Housing Budget Reaction From City of Toronto

☐ In a column in The Toronto Sun, Amanda Galbraith notes that, in an unusual turn of events, last week at Toronto City Hall, a provincial cabinet minister door-crashed the mayor of Toronto's press conference. The minister went to City hall in response to the mayor having the courage to hold a joint press conference with Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown. The minister was there to provide a counterpoint to Tory's assertion Toronto is getting shortchanged.

☐ Galbraith writes that all of Mayor John Tory's meetings, conferences and tours are getting the attention of Queen's Park. She says Tory's actions "shows he's concluded he's obtained all he can out of the provincial government by being Mr. Nice Guy and now he's going to adopt a harder line leading into the coming provincial election."

☐ In the Toronto Star, Royson James writes that the province is supposed to take care of social-service costs of Toronto residents and former premier "Mike Harris turned that on its head with an unconscionable download that has threatened to sink Toronto." He goes on to say that the issues of provincial downloading of public housing costs to Toronto is worse because Premier Kathleen Wynne's own riding has more social-housing units than some entire Ontario towns and jurisdictions.

☐ James says Tory is reasonable when it comes to asking the different levels of government to help with funding. However he says Tory is "muddying the waters" when he started talking about Premier Wynne's shortfall in transit funding as well. He believes Toronto has a very willing and reliable partner for transit, especially since Ontario is fully funding all of the Finch West LRT. James ends his piece by saying the province is not entirely to blame for the housing file, and says "One imagines that if the microscope was placed on city spending and housing, one might find that city hall is almost as much of a deadbeat landlord as Ontario."

Newspapers: "Crying poor on transit sullies funding fight," Toronto Star, Royson James, GT2
"Say goodbye to Mr. 'Nice Guy' Tory; Mayor now has the attention of Queen's Park", Toronto Sun, Amanda Galbraith, A4

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Windsor Chamber of Commerce Joins Call to Suspend Cap-and-Trade

☐ The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce has joined the call for Ontario to cancel its cap-and-trade program, arguing that it is having a devastating impact on local business.

☐ The resolution calling on the government to suspend cap and trade passed over the weekend at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting in Sarnia. Windsor's was among nine chambers to co-sponsor the resolution. They argue that with the introduction of cap-and-trade on January 1, businesses and communities are at risk of being unable to transition to a low carbon economy and still remain viable.

☐ Chamber president and CEO Matt Marchand said the potentially high cost of working under the cap-and-trade system could have businesses such as Essex County's greenhouses and agrifood operations fleeing to coal-burning jurisdictions like Ohio instead.

☐ "It's the layering of all these costs – the 400 per cent increase in electricity prices, now greenhouses have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in carbon taxes," said Marchand. "And to what end? All we end up doing is shipping the jobs to Ohio so they can plug into a coal plant. I think at some point you have to ask yourself, does this make a lot of sense? I think the collective answer is no it doesn't."

☐ The chambers maintain that businesses like greenhouses are not being given enough opportunity to develop new technology and processes to meet the carbon emission targets. They argue these industries will pay significant fees for credits while facing major technological hurdles to reduce carbon emissions that will cost millions of dollars.

☐ Marchand argues that while the companies are facing these costs, there is a risk that cap and trade proceeds could be directed elsewhere, giving little support in the development of low-carbon technology.

☐ If the government will not suspend the system, the chambers have several suggestions for mitigating the "risks." Those include investing in local economies an amount equal to what was drawn through cap-and-trade. The chambers want to ensure cap and trade proceeds from exposed industries are used to develop processes and technologies to help them meet emissions targets. They also want adequate time for more research and development or give credit to companies developing low carbon technology.

☐ The chambers also want the government to recognize other environmental priorities and regulations so businesses are able to meet all emission targets. Finally, they want increased cost offsets and support to ensure small businesses can stay competitive.

Newspapers: "Chamber of Commerce calls for axing of cap-and-trade in Ontario," The Windsor Star, Trevor Willheim, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Outspoken Critics of the Government Elected as New OMA Leaders

☐ Members of the Ontario Medical Association chose their new leaders on Sunday; a pair of outspoken critics of the provincial government who say they will endorse job action if the Ontario government fails to grant their profession binding arbitration.

Shawn Whatley, a family doctor from Mount Albert who is also a former emergency-department boss and prolific blogger, is the group's new president, effective immediately. Nadia Alam, the Georgetown anesthesiologist who has been the public face of opposition to both the provincial government and the former leaders of the OMA, was selected as president-elect, meaning she will be in charge next year when Ontarians head to the polls.

Both Whatley and Alam said a potential labour disruption could begin with paperwork strikes and escalate to "emergency-services only" days, during which some doctors would close their offices and direct ill patients to the emergency room.

"Physicians across the province are very frustrated by the working conditions created by the government's unilateral action," said Alam. "I think job action should be seen as another alarm bell in how the relationship between government and physicians has deteriorated."

The OMA has had a tumultuous year, marred by infighting and the mass resignation of its entire executive in February. The divide burst into the open last August, when 63 per cent of physicians rejected a tentative fee agreement that had been backed by the OMA's board.

That deal would have provided an annual increase of 2.5 per cent to Ontario's 11.5 billion physician-services, but critics argued it was not enough to make up for past cuts or accommodate inflation and a growing, aging population. They also demanded a guarantee of binding third party arbitration.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins congratulated Whatley by phone Sunday and said by email that his government "remains committed to negotiating an interest arbitration process as the first order of business," and described the talks so far as "positive."

With the new leadership in place, Whatley said the OMA is preparing for a fresh start: "We need to have a fair, balanced partnership in health care right now," he said. "Docs are feeling beaten up. They haven't had a contract for more than three years. They're finding it increasingly difficult to provide timely, high-quality care."

Newspapers: "OMA elects critics of Liberals as leaders," The Globe and Mail, Kelly Grant, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: CEO of Registered Nurses Association of Ontario Calls for More RNs

Doris Grinspun, CEO of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) is calling on the province to halt the decline in the percentage of registered nurses (RNs).

Grinspun says she will lead a news conference Monday morning to address the concern of RNs being replaced with less-skilled registered practical nurses.

Grinspun says "it's something that absolutely must stop".

Since not much action followed the RNAO's "Mind the Safety Gap" report last year which supported putting a priority on patients, Grinspun says the RNAO will release the "largest ever publicly available database of all the research for the past 70 years on the impact of registered nurses" on patient outcomes, organizational outcomes and financial outcomes.

The research shows that Ontario is experiencing a "significant decrease" in the

number of RNs, while the number of registered practical nurses is increasing.

☐ In the last eight years, the ratio of registered nurses was said to have dropped by about ten per cent.

☐ Grinspun suggests that long-term care facilities need "a significantly higher proportion" of registered nurses and registered practical nurses. She recommends 20 per cent RNs, 25 per cent registered practical nurses and one nurse practitioner per every 120 patients.

Newspapers: "Nursing head calls for more RNs in Ontario," Windsor Star, Julie Kotsis, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: SMBs Still Struggling With Electricity Costs Despite Financial Aid

☐ Small- and medium sized businesses (SMB) are contemplating actions they normal would not take in order to deal with Ontario's soaring electricity costs, despite the province's promise of more financial aid to relieve them.

☐ Artisanal cheese maker Tor Krueger, who owns the Udder Way Artisan Cheese Co. in Stoney Creek, cited high hydro bills this past winter for his push to get his power off the grid. He recently got a loan from the Business Development Bank of Canada to upgrade his facility so he can get federal certification and sell his handmade goat cheeses across Canada. To get off Ontario's electricity system, he will need his landlord on board to help with the \$50,000 to \$60,000 investment.

☐ The government has promised to spend \$2.5 billion over the next three years on relief programs to help households and SMBs deal with their crushing hydro bills. Under the Fair Hydro Plan, households and about 500,000 small businesses and farmers can expect their electricity bills to drop an average of 25 per cent starting this summer. The reduction includes an 8 per cent rebate that began on January 1 and an additional 17 per cent that comes from lower time-of-use rates effective May 1.

☐ Julie Kwiecinski of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) said the group's 42,000 Ontario members are in wait-and-see mode. "We would like to have seen time of use eliminated altogether," she said. "But at least time-of-use rates are going down and some of the pressure is being taken off."

☐ Time of use prices have been an issue for SMBs because unlike households, many small businesses operate during regulator business hours and have to pay on-peak rates for electricity that are more than twice as much as off-peak rates.

☐ Ratepayers also face other pressures on their hydro bills in addition to time-of-use rates. There is a regulatory charge, a debt-retirement charge, a delivery charge and a global adjustment fee.

☐ Meanwhile, the province has also pledged to cover a number of electricity support programs previously paid by ratepayers, and will eliminate the debt-retirement charge for commercial and industrial users next April. The government also promised to refinance a portion of the global adjustment over a longer period of time to give today's ratepayers a break.

☐ Mid-sized businesses will not qualify for the 25 per cent reduction on their hydro bills because they use more than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year and exceed a demand of 50 kilowatts. Some will be able to sign up for the Industrial Conservation Initiative, whose

participation threshold is being lowered,

Ⓜ However, Ian Howcroft of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) notes that “probably two or three thousand” mid-sized companies will not have any opportunities available to them to address high electricity costs. The CME is urging the province to create an industrial electricity rate.

Newspapers: “Despite Wynne’s rate drop, electricity costs continue to shock,” The Globe and Mail, Showwei Chu, B1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Uber Hires Researchers To Create Driverless Car Technology In Toronto

Ⓜ Uber is launching a research group devoted to driverless car technology in Toronto, creating a third hub - its first outside the U.S. They’re hoping this will upend transportation and generate billions of dollars while doing so.

Ⓜ The Advanced Technologies Group will be led by Raquel Urtasun, a University of Toronto computer science professor who uses artificial intelligence to make vehicles and other machines perceive the world around them more accurately and efficiently. According to the company, the group will hire dozens of researchers and engineers in the next few years. Urtasun’s lab is focused on making the technology that undergirds self-driving cars more affordable and efficient.

Ⓜ Uber will also make a multimillion-dollar, multi-year commitment to the Vector Institute, the artificial intelligence institute that launched in Toronto in March with investment from both government and private sources.

Ⓜ Last year, Ontario became the first province to launch a pilot program that permits on-road testing of automated vehicles (AVs). Carmakers and technology companies that want to participate must apply to the Ministry of Transportation and, if approved, must have a human in the driver’s seat of the AV at all times.

Ⓜ Monday’s announcement comes at a critical time for Uber’s self-driving car program, Waymo, Google’s self-driving car unit, launched a lawsuit against Uber in February, accusing the company of using stolen trade secrets to develop sensors for its autonomous vehicles. Uber has denied the accusations. Waymo has asked a federal court in San Francisco to halt Uber’s self-driving research until the case can be resolved. The judge is expected to rule on the preliminary injunction within days.

Ⓜ Improved safety is one of the primary reasons the researchers and regulators are interested in developing self-driving vehicles: algorithms are not prone to the same distractions and mistakes as human drivers, and Ontario’s Ministry of Transportation specifically cites “minimized driver error” as potential benefit of the technology. The province also cites reduced traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions as a result of more efficient vehicles.

Newspapers: “Uber taps Toronto for driverless car research,” Toronto Star, Kate Allen, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Judge Wants Police To Justify Inmate Transfer Delay Policy

Ⓜ A Superior Court judge has asked Ottawa police to justify a policy that requires three weeks’ notice to transfer a prisoner from an out of-town jail to Ottawa for a bail review, even

if the jail is only as far away as Brockville.

☐ Ontario Superior Court Justice Kevin Phillips made a comment about this policy after he heard that a defence lawyer that accused Michael Wiwczaruk, who is facing charges of break-and-enter, resistant arrest and carrying a concealed weapon, wasn't in court on April 19 because Ottawa police didn't bring him in from the Brockville jail, which is an hour drive away.

☐ Lawyer Gary Banes said that was because he was only able to give a week's notice of the court appearance after a rehabilitation bed had become available for Wiwczaruk in a North Bay drug treatment centre. There was no guarantee that the bed would still be available if he waited the three weeks Ottawa police required to transport Wiwczaruk from the Brockville jail. The bed ended up being available when Wiwczaruk returned to court on May 1, Phillips ordered his release on bail to the treatment facility, but not until after Wiwczaruk had spent an extra 11 days in custody.

☐ Roger Giasson, the staff sergeant in charge of court operations, said the requirements aren't policy but considered best practice, and said time is needed to make the necessary arrangement with whatever jail the prisoner is in. There is also the question of who will pay for the transfer. Ottawa police must send someone to do the pickup themselves if the inmate can't be moved to the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre before the court appearance. Giasson said, in the case of Wiwczaruk, Ottawa police had no record of the transfer request.

☐ Deputy Chief Steve Bell said police are reviewing what happening in Wiwczaruk's case and are looking at changing their tracking of information to a process that documents each request to bring in a prisoner. There are also efforts under way to expand video appearances to avoid delay.

☐ Barnes told the Ottawa Citizen that the Ottawa police policy is troubling. He says the time requirements seem arbitrary and crown prosecutors and judges don't face the same three-week requirement that defence lawyers are subjected to when they want to bring their clients in for a bail review.

☐ A recent Supreme Court decision that highlighted delays in Ontario's criminal justice system prompted Ontario Attorney-General Yasir Naqvi to appoint 13 new judges across the province and ask the federal government to eliminate preliminary inquiries. He also announced a series of bail reforms designed to speed up the bail process and reduce the number of people sitting in jail awaiting trial.

Newspapers: "Judge riled by delays in inmate transfers," Ottawa Citizen, Andrew Seymour, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Foster Care Deaths Sparks Call for Urgent Change

☐ Following the deaths of two indigenous girls, Amy Owen and Courtney Scott, while in the care of the child-welfare system, the government is being called on for urgent improvements in the foster care services, specifically for First Nations children.

☐ Amy Owen, a twelve-year-old who moved from her home on a remote northern reserve to a foster care in Eastern Ontario, was later moved to a group home in Ottawa after worries about her safety. Owen committed suicide on April 17.

☐ 16-year-old Courtney Scott, originally from Fort Albany First Nations, died in a fire

in a group home in Orleans.

☐ These deaths have sparked calls for urgent change to the child-welfare system.

☐ NDP MP Charlie Angus says "these are such horrific and needless deaths and they speak to a larger issue of systemic negligence by the federal and provincial governments."

☐ In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal held that the federal government has been discriminating against 165,000 First Nations children by underfunding First Nations services on reserves in comparison to the funding provincial jurisdictions received.

☐ The tribunal has issued two non-compliance orders against the federal government since that holding.

☐ Angus and the federal NDP have called on the government to commit the immediate use of \$155 million of the \$630 million the federal government already committed to child welfare services over five years. The government intended to use most of that money in 2019 and 2020, but Angus says proper support is needed now.

☐ Angus suggests there is a direct link between the long-term underfunding and the recent deaths of the two indigenous children.

☐ Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett says an agreement was signed with the Ontario government this week which will help keep children out the child-welfare system. The agreement is said to put funding for prevention directly into communities.

☐ Bennett says she hopes the entire system is reformed to provide help and support for children at home.

Newspapers: "So much pain': Outrage after foster care deaths; Calls for urgent change follow recent group home tragedies," Ottawa Citizen, Elizabeth Payne, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Daycare Centres Continue To Go Vacant Due To Financial Issues

☐ According to Councillor Janet Davis, the growing vacancy rate in City of Toronto centre-based daycare is largely the result of affordability problems not over-supply. She said a city-commissioned review found daycare fees in Toronto were the highest in the country, and that cost was the biggest factor for parents considering childcare.

☐ A new Cardus think-tank report says a 10-year city plan that calls for 30,000 new spaces funded largely by the provincial and federal governments does not state that the average daycare vacancies rose by 89% between 2009-17, leaving around 4,500 spaces unoccupied.

☐ Andrea Mrozek of the Toronto Sun writes that Toronto's focus should be on making care accessible and affordable for all parents. She reports that polls show parents' number-one choice for childcare is being able to have one parent stay home, or a relative, and their other choice would be a local neighbourhood home care centre that is small and accessible. She says, "Parents may also be concerned about how well their kids would do in institutional daycare. Some parents simply need different options." One way they can do that, she says, is to offer money to families, instead of to centre or spaces. She ends her piece by saying that subsidizing one form of care tells parents that this is the form of care they should use.

☐ Carolyn Ferns, of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, said that while it may seem contradictory to have vacancies and waitlists at the same time, this reflects high fees, limited subsidies, as well as “age, language and cultural specificity, neighbourhood and parents preferences for certain programs.”

Newspapers: “Growing vacancy is due to financial issues: Councillor,” Toronto Sun, Antonella Artuso, A14
“More daycare centres on way; But are parents saying ‘thanks, but no thanks?’”, Toronto Sun, Andrea Mrozek, A14

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Home Capital Board Member Has Close Ties With Provincial Government

☐ The Toronto Star has learned that Alan Hibben, the newest board member of troubled mortgage lender Home Capital Group, has contacted Ontario’s conflict of interest commissioner due to his close ties with the provincial government.

☐ Hibben, a former head of strategy at RBC Capital Markets, was a key player advising Premier Kathleen Wynne’s administration on the privatization of Hydro One. He is also one of the province’s five appointees on the board of OPTrust that administers the Ontario Public Service Employees’ Union Pension Plan, which is jointly sponsored by the province.

☐ “We expect all provincial appointees to conduct themselves with integrity and be free of conflicts of interest,” said Matt Ostergard, a spokesperson for Treasury Board President Liz Sandals. “We understand that Alan Hibben has contacted the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Ontario for advice on if there may be a conflict and, if so, what guidance he has to offer on how to appropriately handle that.”

☐ Hibben, who replaced company founder Gerald Soloway on the board, joined Home Capital on Friday, less than three weeks after the Ontario Securities Commission alleged that Soloway and two other current and former executives broke the law in a scandal involving falsified loan application.

☐ Hibbens’ links to the Ontario government could be politically problematic, the paper notes. Last week, Progressive Conservative MPP Vic Fedeli expressed concern that Home Capital’s board chair Kevin Smith is also CEO of the publicly funded St. Joseph’s Health System. Until recently, he was also a board member of the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP), which last month loaned Home Capital \$2 billion to prevent a run on deposits in the wake of the OSC probe.

☐ Finance Minister Charles Sousa has defended Smith, noting he “recused himself from any talks” between Home Capital and HOOPP.

Newspapers: “Home Capital board member has strong links to Liberals,” Toronto Star, Robert Benzie, A4

Television: None

Radio: None

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

May 8, 2017

TORONTO STAR

- * 'We got swept' (with photo)
- * Macron win a reprieve for Europe
- * Is Bombardier's 'Get Well Plan' the right medicine for TTC?
- * Uber taps Toronto for driverless car research
- * Changing the face of fitness
- * Floodwaters rise in Quebec

TORONTO SUN

- * Slam dunked (with photo)
- * PC Leader Stands Pat (with photo)

GLOBE AND MAIL

- * Pro-EU Macron sweeps to power in France
- * Flooded out (with photo)
- * Clark stands by trade threats to U.S. on the eve of B.C. election
- * Thousands of sites for homes sit shovel-ready in the Toronto area
- * Nigerian leader's photo with freed schoolgirls causes alarm

NATIONAL POST

- * France's political rookie is mightier than Le Pen (with photo)
- * When optics outrank ability
- * System failed 'lone-actor' terrorist
- * Canada's spy defence: hockey, not honey
- * Music festivals betting on luxury VIP tickets
- * Hooped (with photo)

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

Stations surveyed: Global, CFTO, City TV, CJOH, CFPL

Disclaimer

May 7, 2017

GLOBAL – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

- 1) Emmanuel Macron has defeated far-right candidate Marie Le Pen to secure the presidency of France.
- 2) Montreal has declared a state of emergency as heavy rain continues to flood the region. The collapse of three dikes has prompted more evacuations in the north end of the city.
- 3) Premier Kathleen Wynne and hundreds of law enforcement members from across Canada and the U.S. paid tribute to Ontario's fallen police officers this morning.
- 4) Weather.
- 5) The Line 3 Scarborough RT is closed this weekend from Kennedy to McCowan for track and infrastructure work. Downsview Station is also now called Sheppard West Station.

6) Sports.

7) Thousands of runners participated in the annual Goodlife Fitness Marathon today.

8) An original seven-foot sculpture by Salvador Dali has been unveiled in Vancouver.

9) Global News interviews a father and mental health advocate who lost his son to suicide for Mental Health Awareness Week.

GLOBAL – 6:30 PM (National)

1) Emmanuel Macron has defeated far-right candidate Marie Le Pen to become France's youngest president at 39-years-old.

2) A state of emergency has been declared in Montreal as the city confronts unprecedented flooding. Nearly 1,900 homes have flooded across several communities.

3) Flood levels are beginning to recede in New Brunswick. Some areas received more than 150 millimetres of rain since Friday.

4) 7,000 people have been evacuated from their homes due to flooding caused by intense rainstorms in southern China.

5) Firefighters are trying to contain more than 100 wildfires in Florida tonight.

6) 50,000 people in the German city of Hanover have been evacuated after a construction crew discovered unexploded bombs from World War II.

7) A group of 82 school girls held captive for three years by Islamist militants have been released in exchange for several militant commanders.

8) Patients with chronic pain are concerned they will be unjustly impacted by Canada's stricter prescription guidelines to curtail the opioid crisis.

9) Pope Francis ordained 10 men to priesthood today and urged new priests to adopt a more simplistic approach to delivering sermons.

10) Global News airs the first of its series on faith and religion in Canada. Congregations have reduced in size across all regions.

CFTO – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

1) Montreal is the latest city to declare a state of emergency due to flooding.

2) Some areas north of the GTA remain under a rainfall warning. Officials in Minden have declared a state of emergency.

3) British Columbia is also seeing floods and mudslides due to rain and melting snow.

4) The Raptors are facing the Cavaliers in a crucial game tonight.

5) Weather.

6) Police officers from across the province gathered at Queen's Park today to remember their own. Premier Kathleen Wynne spoke at the memorial.

- 7) A man is in hospital with life threatening injuries after a crash this morning.
- 8) The FBI has joined Belize authorities in the investigation into the murder of a Keswick woman and her American boyfriend.
- 9) The Toronto Raptors have been defeated in the NBA playoffs.
- 10) Emmanuel Macron has been elected the new president of France.

City TV – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

- 1) The Toronto Raptors will be eliminated from the playoffs if they do not win against the Cleveland Cavaliers tonight.
- 2) Weather.
- 3) Pro-European Union centrist Emmanuel Macron has won the French presidency over far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen. French expatriates in Toronto are relieved at the results.
- 4) Premier Kathleen Wynne and hundreds of people attended the 18th Annual Ceremony of Remembrance for Ontario's fallen police officers this morning.
- 5) Navy personnel laid wreaths and marched to commemorate Canadian men and women in the Navy and Air Force who died in the Battle of the Atlantic today.
- 6) Montreal has declared a state of emergency as heavy rain continues to flood the region. The 48-hour order will involve mandatory evacuations of thousands of residents.
- 7) Streetcar service on Queen Street will be replaced by buses starting today until September 3rd for road construction projects.
- 8) Downsview Station has been renamed to Sheppard West Station. The change is meant to prevent confusion for commuters when the new Downsview Park Station opens this fall.
- 9) More than 14,000 runners hit the streets of Toronto this morning for the annual Goodlife Fitness Marathon.
- 10) Update: The Toronto Raptors have been eliminated from the playoffs after losing Game 4.

CJOH – 6:00 PM (Ottawa)

- 1) The province of Ontario has put in a request for supplies and materials from the federal government to help with the flood crisis.
- 2) All federal government offices in Gatineau will be closed tomorrow due to flooding.
- 3) Residents are working hard in Roady's Bay to get sandbags up to protect their homes.
- 4) There are safety concerns about the water levels at Chaudiere Falls.
- 5) Weather.
- 6) More municipalities in Quebec have declared a state of emergency, including Montreal.
- 7) Heavy rain causing flooding has been seen all across Canada.

- 8) Emmanuel Macron has been elected the new president of France.
- 9) Around 50,000 people have been ordered to evacuate Hanover, Germany as experts work to defuse bombs from the second World War.
- 10) In Nigeria, 82 kidnapped schoolgirls arrived in the capital city after being freed.

CFPL – 6:00 PM (London)

- 1) Friends and family of a man who died in an accident Friday afternoon are rallying to support his fiancé.
- 2) Construction is starting on a new \$2.5 million addition at Museum London.
- 3) The driver of a tractor-trailer has life-threatening injuries following a crash on Highway 401 in Chatham-Kent early this morning.
- 4) Montreal has now also declared a state of emergency due to flooding.
- 5) Emmanuel Macron has been elected the new president of France.
- 6) The United States says it's aware of reports that North Korea has detained another U.S. citizen on suspicion of hostile acts against the country
- 7) Manitoba RCMP are investigating a video in which a man accuses another man on camera of setting up a meeting with a 15 year old girl for sex.
- 8) Ontario's fallen police officers were honoured in a ceremony today.
- 9) London held its annual Walk So Kids Can Talk Day.
- 10) Weather.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

May 8, 2017

CBC Radio (Toronto)

- 1) A Toronto city councillor says unless things change soon he is moving forward with a motion to pull the city's funding from Pride Toronto. Today a city committee will discuss how much money it will give to various cultural groups in the city. The councillor said Pride Toronto won't get funding unless uniformed police officers are allowed to participate in the parade.
- 2) An inquest into the death of a volunteer and student firefighter during a training session begins this week. The family of the deceased have been calling on the province to regulate training courses and hope that the recommendations for change from a past inquest combined with the results of this inquest will make an impact.
- 3) Toronto Police are investigating the incident of three young people who were spotted on a crane throwing items off of it near Bayview Avenue and River Street.

4) More than 1,200 Canadian military personnel have been deployed in Quebec where several communities are in a state of emergency due to flooding.

5) Emmanuel Macron has defeated Marine Le Pen in last night's election to become the President of France.