

Next Steps: G&M Article

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Date: Sat, 21 Apr 2018 17:52:58 -0400
Attachments: Unnamed Attachment (141 bytes)

Hi all, just looping back to recap our next steps coming out of this afternoon's call. John, Jenna and I have discussed.

Communications Strategy

We'll work up two statements to pick and choose from .

1. Statement from Minister(s)
 - Covering openness and transparency of FHP , and clarifying role of public servants in implementing gov't decision.
 - Decision makers can choose which parts they'd like to use , if any.
2. Statement from OPS:
 - Talks about civil service and how they were implementing gov't decision, using language developed for SCOPA appearance .
 - TBC on how this would get used or who would issue it – for now just getting the words on paper.

To supplement existing material, we'll also work up a few Qs to address the new pieces raised in the article. Will use pre-approved language as much as possible. Objective is to arm Ministers for QP and scrums Monday.

We'll aim to share material ahead of tomorrow's call, and use part of the call to collect feedback.

Media Analysis

Here's a high level media analysis as of 5pm – not much has changed since the summary I provided on the call :

["Bad Books: How Ontario's new hydro accounting could cost taxpayers billions "](#) by Matthew McClearn, Globe & Mail

- The story is featured prominently on the front page of today's print edition of the Globe & Mail and currently sits at the top of the online version.
- The Globe has tweeted the story five times between 8:30am to 5:00pm today, indicating they are promoting it heavily.
- The article has been re-tweeted close to 200 times via various sources (including the G&M itself and reporters such as Christine Blizzard, David Hains [QP Briefing], and David Reevely [Ottawa Citizen]).
- Key themes on social media include criticism of the Liberal government (using terms such as 'fraud', 'treacherous', 'underhanded'); 'creative accounting', and that the AG has been 'sounding the alarm' on this for some time.
- The article itself has been referenced as an "explosive investigation."
- There have been two mentions of "excessive" FOI fees encountered by David Hains and John Bowker (NDP policy researcher) regarding the Fair Hydro Plan and linking to the Globe and Mail article.
- At this time, there has not been any coverage regarding specific TBS (or other ministry) civil servants.

Key tweets include:

Kevin Gaudet
 @KevinGaudet
 Globe investigation exposes large Ontario fraud, implicates the Wynne government, IESO, bureaucracy and 3 of big four accounting firms. #onpoli #cdnpoli
pressreader.com/canada/the-glo...
 7:49am • 21 Apr 2018 • TweetDeck
 1 RETWEET 1 LIKE

 The Globe and Mail
 @globeandmail
 Investigation: Bad books: How Ontario's new hydro accounting could cost taxpayers billions trib.al/x6VLTQ4
 8:31am • 21 Apr 2018 • SocialFlow
 13 REPLIES 21 RETWEETS 28 LIKES

 Gillian Smith
 @gilliansmith73
 A brilliant long-form investigative piece in today's Globe on the @OntLiberal Fair Hydro Plan. Once you see the Libs' treacherous ways of operating, it's impossible to un-see. @OntarioPCParty theglobeandmail.com/canada/investi...
 8:50am • 21 Apr 2018 • Twitter for iPhone
 1 REPLY 7 RETWEETS 9 LIKES

 Christina Blizzard
 @chrizblizz
 Anyone still considering voting Liberal in the next provincial vote should read Matthew McClearn's excellent analysis of hydro accounting in the @globeandmail . Provincial auditor Bonnie Lysyk has been sounding accounting alarm for years. This explains why. #onpoli
 10:16am • 21 Apr 2018 • Twitter Web Client
 1 REPLY 16 RETWEETS 17 LIKES

David Hains
@DavidHains

The Globe requested documents relating to the Fair Hydro Plan from Ontario's Ministry of Energy. They were told that would cost \$112,000 in FOI fees. #cdnfoi #broken cc @jpgs theglobeandmail.com/canada/investi...

11:48am • 21 Apr 2018 • TweetDeck

2 REPLIES 7 RETWEETS 2 LIKES

Phillip Roh
@TOproh

1) If the government makes an extremely odd change to financial accounting policies does that not warrant an investigation?

2) Ontario party-in-power has attacked credibility of @OntarioAuditor. Isn't that a bit

@realDonaldTrump-ian?

#onpoli #Change4Better

theglobeandmail.com/canada/investi...

1:15pm • 21 Apr 2018 • Twitter for iPhone

Related coverage:

" [Ontario's 'lost decade' under the Liberals](#) " by Lorrie Goldstein, Toronto Sun.

No explicit mention of the G&M article. Focus on province's debt; cites the Auditor General and the Financial Accountability Officer

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Communications Branch

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