

Summary of Question Period for Mar. 07/17

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MPP Baker (LIB) to Minister Sandals re: recent developments with Open Government

>> MPP Baker: Thanks very much, Speaker. My question is to the president of the treasury board. As you know, Minister, I am passionate about addressing youth unemployment and underemployment and that is why I introduced a private member's bill on pathways to postsecondary education which will do just that, create a website, give students the information they need so they can make an informed decision about their future career and postsecondary choices. Minister, you are responsible for strengthening Ontario's efforts to become the most open and transparent government in Canada. I know this aligns well with the work being done in- digital government by Minister Matthews. I represented this weekend our government, Minister, at civic tech Toronto code across hackathon. I invited participants to help solve some of the challenges facing our province. I also invited them to design a tool similar to that in my private member's bill to help understand labour market demands, the skills they need to achieve those jobs and the postsecondary programs that would allow them to achieve, acquire those skills. And ultimately pursue their career goals. Could you tell us how we are using hackathons like code across to create value from Ontario's open data to benefit all Ontarians?

>> Minister Sandals: Yes, thank you, Speaker. Thank you to the member from Etobicoke Centre for his enthusiastic support of our open data mandate. And for representing our government at code across. Ontario was a proud responsible sore of code across, a hackathon where citizens come together to collaborate on technology and design solutions based on some of the data sets publicly posted by the Ontario government. This year Ontario provided seven challenges to civil society, ranging from the member's challenge to map career pathways to creating an act that assists landlords and tenants in resolving their disputes without having to go through the landlord tenant board. By the end of the day wire frames had been -- for a new health care act to provide users with digital access to their immunization records. Dashboard which would allow users to view employment stat statistics.

>> MPP Baker: I know in Ontario we are already doing tremendous work when it comes to openness and transparency. I actually heard we were one of 15 sub-nationals worldwide invited to join the open government partnership. Only one province invited in Canada. The philosophy that Ontarians can work alongside governments to generate ideas is alive and well and alive and well on Saturday. I had the opportunity to meet with Gabe Scharf. Budgetpedia, actually a tool that allows people to visualize Toronto's budget and democracy kit project at that that seeks to support councillors and school

board trustees with resources. I was impressed with the hackathon because some of Toronto's brightest young people, Minister, came together to find ways of using data made available by our government and innovative technology. To solve some of the most important challenges facing our province and every ride AIG cross Ontario. Minister, could you tell us how our government is continuing to work with active and engaged citizens like those represented at code across on Saturday?

>> Minister Sandals: Thank you, Speaker. In December I actually had the opportunities to attend the open partnerships global summit. The summit involved over 3,000 representatives from 70 countries who gathered to push forward the open government agenda. At this event, I was proud to announce that Ontario would be strengthening our commitment to openness by adopting the international open data charter. Speaker, open data commitment to increasing access to data has already LED to the production of a data catalogue of over 2,000 government data sets of which we have already published 560 online. Data sets are filling a real need in our set. Our top ten most frequently down loaded data sets are quite diverse. And include thin -- things like monitoring greenhouse gases emitted from manufacturing facilities, stats on public libraries. And marriage reg --