

[TRANSCRIPT] Lisa MacLeod Post Question Period Scrum - October 16, 2017

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TRANSCRIPT – Lisa MacLeod PQPS – October 16, 2017

MPP: Lisa MacLeod

Media: Rushowy, Reynolds, Crawley, Jones, Bliss, Fitzpatrick (CBC), Benzie, Rath, Lamoureux, City TV, Brulé, Morissette, Qureshi, Moore (Newstalk 1010)

[START TRANSCRIPT]

[Part 1]
[In progress]

MacLeod

- - on Friday that the Liberals had changed their mind that they wanted to pursue this fast-track as we had proposed
- So we're going to obviously support it today
- And we'll vote for it, our—our caucus will be supportive, as I've indicated

Rushowy: So what do you think happened? Do you think they came under pressure, or —

MacLeod:

- Well you know something
- I'm from the city of Ottawa
- As you all know, I'm very proud to be from Ottawa
- And also the Attorney General is from Ottawa, and the clinic happens to be in his riding
- And I think the — it was seen for what it was, which was, which was a political move by the government not to support it
- And I think that there was a considerable backlash in the city
- I - you know, I spoke to many people last week who were pretty upset

Rushowy: So when do you think it will be passed?

MacLeod

- I expect by, probably by next Wednesday
- But we'll have some debate
- We'll have some committee time
- And those who had already been consulted can come back and be consulted again
- And then we can move on with it
- And hopefully by the end of this month, women in Ontario will be safer if — whether they are going into the abortion clinic, or they are walking past it

Lamoureux: Have you seen the new ads, the — the government giving voices to people. I mean, what do you make of those ads?

MacLeod

- I haven't seen them

Smith: On the Working Ontario Women coalition or group, or organization, you tweeted that they consider you less of a woman because you're a Conservative. Can you clarify what that means?

MacLeod: Which, which outlet are you with?

Smith: Queen's Park Today?

MacLeod

- OK
- Well you know something, I've been a Conservative woman

- I've been elected four times, 12 years here
- And I often feel that whether that's Justin Trudeau saying Conservatives take gender equality back
- Or it's Kathleen Wynne and Yasir Naqvi playing this game on the abortion issue
- Is – it makes women in our Party feel like we're less of a woman because they attack us for supporting Conservative values
- And Conservative values are lower taxes, safer streets, stronger families
- And so, I was pretty clear that I was going to call out their bullshit
- And that's exactly what it is

Smith: So you think that this group is trying to turn women in Ontario against the Ontario PC party?

MacLeod

- Absolutely
- This – this is just another Liberal front group, like every single election I've ever been in, where the – these Working Family Coalitions, where these Liberal front groups come and attack Progressive Conservative Leaders
- And if they, if this organization decides they're going to attack my leader on any of those gender issues, then they're attacking me
- And all my female colleagues
- And all of our female candidates
- And all of our female members
- And any woman in this province who cares about fiscal conservatism

Bliss: But is it, is it fair to say people do criticize social conservative – extreme social conservatives – you guys aren't all under the same political umbrella within your own Party. Some of you have vastly different views –

MacLeod

- The Liberals have –

Bliss: -- on religious issue and, and on abortion issues, things like that. So, it doesn't meant that you're being tainted and painted with the same brush, something you –

MacLeod

- They're trying – let's be very clear, they are trying to say that the Progressive Conservative Party is a certain way
- I'm telling you that we are just like every other political party, where we have vigorous debates, and then we come out with a common front and we run into an election
- My Leader has been very clear on a number of issues, including abortion: it will never be reopened
- The only people that want to reopen this is this organization called WOW and Kathleen Wynne
- And so I'm here, very clear as somebody who has advocated to change this place to make it more family-friendly for women
- I'm somebody who has brought 317 women to Queen- – to Parliament Hill to let them do Daughters of the Vote
- I'm somebody who has advocated for women in politics
- And I know I have a leader that supports me in doing that
- So if the Liberals or WOW wants to talk about divisions in political parties, why

- don't they go talk to Joe Dickson
- Why don't they go talk to some of the cleavages within the Liberal Party of Ontario
- But I'm, I'm, I'm really getting very tired of watching these third-party organizations run millions in attack ads against Ernie Eves, John Tory, Tim Hudak, and now Patrick Brown
- I've been around a while and, and I've seen it and all of you have seen it too
- So they should be called out and I don't think they should get any more airtime

Jones: so do you think that your party will have maybe better chances this election, given that the third parties are now subject to some spending limits, where they had none in the past?

MacLeod:

- So, I always hope we do better than the last one, because we've *inaudible* to my seat, but we haven't been so successful in picking up any beside me
- But I think we're going to do well
- I think we've got a disciplined leader, I think we have somebody who really cares about the issues
- Momentum seems to be on our sides but, but anything could change *inaudible*
- Let me just address, because I do think it's important: Working Families Coalition was able to spend more money in attack ads against Tim Hudak than all three other political parties combined were able to spend
- Now, that's going to be split up, so you're going to see more organizations—that could mean more attack ads, that could mean more money and that is disturbing, that type of influence in Ontario politics
- And I think with the rise of social media, that stuff's going to be called out but you can, you can be—rest assured, most of you know, I was the spokesperson on Working Families Coalition for many years in our party, I'm going to continue to call them out
- It's, it's, it's wrong, and I think Ontarians *inaudible* it

Jones: do you think the groups that formed—Working Families are just going to, sort of, split up and spend the 600,000 each during the—?

MacLeod:

- I suspect so
- I suspect so
- They did it against Stephen Harper, they're going to do it against us

Bliss: let me ask you about the college teachers' strike. What should the government do at this stage? I mean, should they sit back and, and sort of let it go, or should they intervene somehow?

MacLeod:

- I think, you know, they've got to bring the two sides together
- When I was first elected 12 years ago, Algonquin College was on strike
- Here we are, 12 years later, Algonquin College is in, on strike, is on strike again
- This is a government that always talks about labor peace
- Unfortunately, right now, people are paying thousands of dollars to get an education are, are not at school
- So the government—it's incumbent upon the Minister of the Treasury Board as

well as Deputy Premier to, to get both sides back together and, and have a conversation

Media: thanks.

MacLeod:

- Thanks, everybody!

break

*Brulé: --Kathleen Wynne is *inaudible* about the minimum wage, about working conditions, and so on. Do you expect, do you think this is in response to Patrick Brown's*
—

MacLeod:

- Oh, there's no question that Kathleen Wynne is running scared and she is, she is reacting—whether that's on the abortion bill, whether it's on minimum wage, whether it's on, on hydro-pricing
- Since this guy's taken office as our leader, Patrick Brown has been running the agenda at Queen's Park, and she's playing catch-up
- So I hope she's got her running shoes on!

Brulé: do you think that people see those ads, because kids—young adults—don't watch TV like we used to do, or we maybe still doing. So, unless they watch hockey, they might not be on TV, they might not see those ads. And if they're not in the same circle on the Facebook or Twitter, they might not see these ads.

MacLeod:

- I would say still, today, the most-effective way to communicate is through television
- And, I mean, that is evolving
- Kids today are more-watching [the] YouTube—*inaudible* these videos will probably be there as well
- The question is, how much money are they spending?

Brulé: how much money are you guys spending?

MacLeod:

- Oh, that's a good question!
- It's above my paygrade! **laughter**

Brulé: but you wonder how much they're spending on those new ads?

MacLeod:

- Yeah, I mean, betwe-, between the government partisan-advertising that they're doing here with, with—whether it's Fair Hydro or the old ORPP—the government is spending 56 million dollars of taxpayer money to, to, for self-congratulations in advertising
- And then the Liberals want to augment that with their own ads, so they, they're going to do what they're going to do
- But I, I would say that they're still in a lot of trouble, I don't think people believe the Liberals after 10—14—years of mismanagement

Brulé: because they did that in the spring, where they were having the Fair Hydro ad—ads—and then the Liberal party ads, to complement that, I guess. So are you expecting something like that to come in the next—

MacLeod:

- Absolutely, I mean, they took away the Auditor General's powers in terms of government advertising—I'm the critic, I sit in the, you know, the Public Accounts committee—they took away her powers
- They took, they took away her powers right before a federal election so they could run ORPP ads to help Justin Trudeau who was, who was talking about the CPP
- So you're now looking at Fair Hydro ads and then they ran their own complementary ads, and it's nothing but using government money to advance their ideas and, and trying to get votes
- Thank you!

Brulé: take care.

[END TRANSCRIPT]