

TRANSCRIPT – Patrick Brown PQPS – May 15, 2017

Media: Nanji, CBC, Ferguson, Allison Smith, TFO, Paul Bliss, Smith-Cross, Jeffords, Brule, Global, Moore (CFRB)

Brown:

- Frankly, its unusual right now that they're- they've got a budget going to committee in an hour it's a – unfortunately they're using – the night sittings to try to show that they're not cramming stuff through
- But they are
- They're – there's- supposed to be a level of debate here
- In the legislature
- And they're trying to diminish that

Nanji: So I guess this is just another - example of them ramming legislation through?

Brown:

- Yeah but having said that they want to sit 'til midnight so be it
- That's fine

Nanji: Think all your MPPs will be there?

Brown:

- I'm sure we'll have a good turnout

*Brule: *In French**

Brown:

- *In French*

Smith: In English?

Brown

- I was just saying --
- Asking about whether I was happy about response from the Liberal
- The Liberal cabinet document that was leaked
- No absolutely not

- Here we have hydro rates going to go up 61%
- And they said this fair hydro plan was finally going to bring hydro rates down
- And now we hear it's just a an election gimmick
- It's all about kicking the can down the road
- And we're going to pay more
- And so I think Ontarians have the right to be disappointed
- This was all about the election
- This is all about optics
- They don't care the Ontarians are going to pay more
- They don't care this is going to make the hydro situation worse
- They don't care that families are going to be in real pain down the road
- It's all about optics for them next year

Smith: What do you think about the clean energy adjustment – is going on the bills in 2027-2028?

Brown:

- Well, I'd say the other thing beyond that is – is the return of the debt retirement charge
- You know – they're looking at new ways to charge Ontarians more
- And when they had their press conference here at Queens Park, they weren't talking about the return of the debt retirement charge
- What it comes down to is everyone's going to have higher hydro bills, everyone's going to pay more and every time they touch hydro they make it worse

Jeffords: Patrick the NDP said today they're going to vote against the bill, the liberals have a majority it's going to pass, what are the Tories going to do?

Brown:

- In no world can I support a hydro plan that's going to cause hydro rates to sky rocket to 61%
- In no world can I support a plan that's going to cause massive new amounts of debt
- Ontarians are going to pay more, it's going to cost us more, it's just another example of every time the liberals touch hydro we pay more, Ontarians pay more
- On their watch, hydro rates have gone up 400%
- this is an election gimmick and I can't support it

Moore (CFRB): What do you think of the early indications that we have about where the liberals are going to go with reforms with labour rules?

Brown:

- Well I'm going to wait to see the report and then we'll judge it accordingly

Moore (CFRB): But they're talking about a \$15 minimum wage

Brown:

- Yea well and I don't want to speak about it off hoc
- Obviously we said before that you know tying it to the price of inflation seemed reasonable but I'm going to wait to comment until I see the report in its entirety