

TRANSCRIPT– Vic Fedeli PQPS – May 2, 2018

MPP: Vic Fedeli

Media: Ferguson, Rushowy, Rath, Morissette, Tumelty, Walsh, Hains, Brulé, Reeves, Jeffords, Rath, Fitzpatrick, Crawley,

[START TRANSCRIPT]

Rath: So Vic, Doug Ford sort of hung you out to dry yesterday didn't he?

Fedeli:

- Uh, with respect?

Rath: Well he came up with a – with his – let's cut chunks out of the greenbelt, and then when he figured out the public opinion wasn't really with him, he uh, he backed down and he left you for 24 hours, having to explain that oh yeah this is a great idea.

Fedeli:

- Well actually I was very impressed with our leader Doug Ford because he listened to the people
- He's listened to the people -

Rath: Yeah he also has hung you out to dry. How many times are you going to allow him to do that?

Fedeli:

- But he's listened to the people and uh, he, unlike Kathleen Wynne, you know, you've got, you've got Kathleen Wynne who didn't listen to the people and ended up selling hydro one
- Whereas you've got Doug Ford who listened to the people and said yeah, alright, the Greenbelt stays as it is
- I think that's a – I think that's a, a great response

*Tumelty: *crosstalk* that's how this came to light, otherwise *inaudible* he wasn't listening to the people, it got leaked out, it got – came to light, and then people started asking questions, that's when the people found out, otherwise it would have just been a backroom deal*

Fedeli:

- I have to tell you I'm very impressed
- Uh Doug Ford has listened to the people of Ontario
- And he's come out and he's said yeah I hear you, and we're not doing that

*Media: *crosstalk**

Ferguson: -stands here all the time talking about the Liberals making backroom deals and it turns out, you guys had one of your own, so how do you explain that?

Fedeli:

- Well I can tell you that Doug has listened to the people of the province of Ontario

Ferguson: Not but what about the backroom deal? Explain the backroom deal? Don't tell us [how] he's listening, tell us about how the backroom deal came about in the first place?

Fedeli:

- I can tell you that I'm very pleased to – to be part of this team
- Doug listened to the people of Ontario
- And there will be no uh changes to the Greenbelt
- And I got to tell you, I'm pretty impressed with the fact that these –

Tumelty: How many backroom deals are out there?

Walsh: Does he have any other backroom deals?

Fedeli:

- I can tell you, I'm pretty impressed with the fact that he's listened to the people
- This is unlike Kathleen Wynne

Tumelty: You're not answering the question

Fedeli:

- Kathleen Wynne who went ahead and, and sold hydro one when the people uh, the majority of the people in Ontario said don't do that
- And she would not listen to the people
- And ended up selling hydro one
- I got to tell you, I'm very impressed with - *crosstalk*

*Media: *crosstalk**

Rushowy: Should he have made that promise to developers in the first place though? Should he have made that promise to developers in the first place?

Fedeli:

- Look, I think the fact that Doug Ford has said we're not going to be touching the Greenbelt I think that's where we need to be

Hains: Have you asked him whether there are any other, have you asked Ford whether there are any other backroom deals?

Fedeli:

- I can tell you that I'm very very happy, very impressed with our leader Doug Ford for being able to listen to the people and respond to it
- *crosstalk*
- I think you – I think you can that that's going to be a sign of *crosstalk*

*Rath: When did you first find out about this, that he wanted to carve out the greenbelt
*inaudible**

Fedeli:

- Well look uh, Doug ford has been very clear that

*Rath: *inaudible* important question -*

Fedeli:

- Doug Ford has been very clear that unlike Kathleen Wynne who will not listen to the people of Ontario, Doug is going to listen to the people and react
- And uh, I got to tell you, I'm pretty impressed with that

*Ferguson: Vic don't you think *inaudible* you're standing here defending it, and now today you're saying that it's brilliant *inaudible* do you guys even know what you are talking about?*

Fedeli:

- I can tell ya, very very impressed with the fact that Doug has listened to the people of Ontario and the – come out and talked about the Greenbelt
- Nothing will be changed

*Media: *crosstalk* same line over, over and over *inaudible* sound like *inaudible* the people of Ontario want to hear?*

Fedeli:

- Well, I can tell you what the people want to hear is that relief is on its way
- And come June 7th, help is on its way

Jeffords: Vic, don't you think that if Kathleen Wynne had done this, you'd call it a flip-flop, but if Doug has done this now, it's, it's suddenly leadership? I mean, isn't that a double standard?

Fedeli:

- I think the fact that he's listened to the people is truly important
- You know, Kathleen Wynne did not listen to the people when she announced after the election that she was going to sell Hydro One
- We learned that after the election
- And the people said no, and she still continued to sell Hydro One

Walsh: so Vic, who are the people?

Fedeli:

- --Doug Ford is listening to the people

Walsh: so Vic, who are the people? What is the barometer, then, for changing a policy? Who are the people, how many do there need to be, for your government—if you form government—to change whatever policy you put forward in a day?

Fedeli:

- Well, unlike Kathleen Wynne—who would not listen to the people—and went ahead with the sale of Hydro One, Doug Ford has listened to the people and he's going to be leaving the Greenbelt where it was

Walsh: OK, on an, on a—

Ferguson: How do you consult with all the people within 24 hours?

Fedeli

- Plain and simple
- I'm thrilled with the way Doug Ford has reacted to this
- Unlike Kathleen Wynne, Doug Ford has –

Media: How did he – how did he do it though?

Fedeli

- Doug Ford has listened to the people
- We understood that the people didn't want any changes to the Greenbelt
- We heard it loud and clearly
- And Doug Ford has agreed, nothing will change

Walsh: Vic on a different – on a different note Vic, will you – what's your overall response to the FAO report today?

Fedeli

- I think it's yet another damning report
- And it's very clear that the Liberals lied to the people of Ontario
- There's no hesitation to say that to you
- The Financial Accountability Officer has agreed with the Auditor General that there's a \$12-billion deficit
- Whereas the government said it was \$6.7-billion
- He also – the Financial Accountability Officer also said that unlike what the government said that they balanced, there was actually a \$3-billion deficit
- So they did not slay the deficit as they said
- They did not balance
- There was a \$3-billion hole

- You cannot trust anything that Kathleen Wynne says ever again

Walsh: If you form government, do you commit to stopping this structural deficit, or will you also operate government with a structural deficit?

Fedeli

- Well, Doug Ford has said we – we won't be able to balance in first year
- There's quite a bit of – of deficit that we now see revealed from the FAO and the Auditor General
- But, through efficiencies, we will – we will get to balance

*Media: Are you going to count the – the \$5-billion **inaudible** Fair Hydro Plan and the pension fund stuff into your – like will you put that on the **inaudible***

Fedeli

- Our leader Doug Ford has been very, very clear that we respect the opinion of the Auditor General
- We also respect the opinion of the Financial Accountability Officer
- We are going to have a full commission of inquiry to find out what happened
- And to guide us with ways out of the mess that the Liberals created

Media: Yeah, but I asked you whether you would count those things on budget

Fedeli

- Well you're going to see a full accounting from our inquiry – our commission of inquiry
- Which not only will disclose all of the numbers and how we go there
- But also a way out for – for the people of Ontario

Hains: The Liberals announced this morning that should they be elected, they will further expand the Greenbelt. Will the PCs back that plan?

Fedeli

- Well you can't believe a word that Kathleen Wynne says
- We just learned that from the Financial Accountability Officer
- She's had 15 years to comment on the Greenbelt and now she chooses only days before the writ is being dropped
- You can't trust a word she's saying or believe anything

Hains: But the PCs just said that the Greenbelt is important. So, you know, are you willing to take the next step and further expand the Greenbelt?

Fedeli

- Look you can't believe anything Kathleen Wynne is saying

- I'm telling you there's 15 years that have created crisis after crisis throughout the province of Ontario
- And now that we're within days of a writ being called, all of a sudden they're popping out these policies

*Media: ****crosstalk**** expand the Greenbelt without using the words Kathleen Wynne*

Fedeli

- ****laughs****

Ferguson: It's not a yes or a no answer Vic

Fedeli

- Look you're going to hear more about our plans for the province of Ontario in the coming days and the coming weeks

Brule: Will the plan include the Greenbelt or protection of the environment?

Fedeli

- The people of Ontario need relief
- You know that we have five priorities
- And will be talking about our five priorities more in the coming days and in the coming weeks

Hains: Why should people trust Doug Ford on the Greenbelt who – who had this backroom deal – more than the Premier

Fedeli

- I can tell you
- People cannot trust a word that comes out of Kathleen Wynne's mouth
- We've heard loud and clear from the Auditor General and then the Financial Accountability Officer, both who've told us that the government was not truthful with their books
- And we learned today, not only were they not truthful
- But there really is a \$12-billion deficit
- We also learned that \$3-billion was the existing deficit
- They were never in balance

Hains: if Doug Ford is cutting backroom deals why should we trust him more?

Fedeli:

- You're going to see more from our leader Doug Ford in the coming days in the coming weeks where we talk about how we're going to bring real relief to the families of Ontario
- They're desperate for relief

Crawley: One of the things that people are complaining about or want relief from is high gas prices. Other than ending cap and trade you guys got any plans to rein in gas prices?

Fedeli:

- We're going to help families with a long list of our five priorities
- And you'll in the coming days in the coming weeks you're going to see more and more how we're going to bring real relief
- Whether it's lowering hydro rates by 12% which has already been announced
- Where we've got other issues that will be coming up as the days and weeks unfold

Jeffords: You're talking about how we're going to see all these things in the coming weeks. More to come, more to come. But when Doug is making policy announcements they have next to no detail in them whatsoever. You know, how can Ontarians be assured that there is actually a plan that is substantive – that the Tories are going to offer up in the coming weeks?

Fedeli:

- Every single day our leader Doug Ford is out making announcements and including where I'll be in North Bay tomorrow
- And I look forward to joining with him side by side as further announcements are being made
- He's in the North making announcements
- He talked about resource revenue sharing
- Something that I can tell you in 2003 as a mayor of the City of North Bay all of the mayors joined and we started asking the province for relief for municipalities back in 2003
- And none of it happened
- Here we are 15 years later we're now finally going to see revenue sharing for municipalities
- These things will all be costed and you'll be seeing more in the coming days on the costing

Hains: Shouldn't we get the costing up front though?

Fedeli:

- You'll see it
- We are going to be revealing the full plan

Reeves: Vic why is Toby Barrett telling the Waterloo Record that Michael Harris was fired under Doug Ford's plan and not what the provincial nomination's committee recommended?

Fedeli:

- I can't speak for Toby and to be quite frank I wasn't involved in that
- I'm not aware of any of the issue- I'm not aware of the details of that issue

Hains: You were quite proud of rooting out the rot. Doesn't that seem like the kind of rot that you know that - the - kind of rot that - um that deserves further questions?

Fedeli:

- Well, I can tell you, I wasn't involved in that issue

Reeves: no, but again, the, the provincial nominations committee is saying they looked at the offence from 2013—that the person who made the complaint had no recommendation that he should be let go, she wasn't seeking that in any way—

Fedeli:

- I, I—

Reeves: --and yet the PNC is making that, that claim?

Fedeli:

- I can't speak for Toby
- And I don't sit on the PNC

Reeves: so you're, you're completely OK with the possibility—as it's being alleged, by a caucus member of yours—that the party, the new party leader is dismissing MPPs when that's not what the other [parts of the party] are recommending?

Fedeli:

- I'm not familiar with the actual details of what, what transpired, and I don't sit on the PNC

Reeves: so who should we speak to about this?

Fedeli:

- I don't sit on the PNC

Hains: do you have any concerns as, as a, as a—

Fedeli:

- I don't know the—

Hains: --caucus member?

Fedeli:

- --I don't know the real issue, and I don't sit on the PNC

Ferguson: so when we do ask the party to speak to the PNC, we don't really get a response. So can you help us get a response from the PNC?

Fedeli:

- I don't, I don't sit on the PNC

Ferguson: no, but you're interim leader, can't you help get us a response from the PNC on this?

Fedeli:

- I would suggest you take it up with the party

Ferguson: we have, and get nowhere.

Fedeli:

- I would suggest you take it up with the party

Ferguson: but you're all about transparency when it's the Liberals, what about when it's the PC transparency?

Fedeli:

- I don't sit on the PNC and I can tell you that if you need further details, you can take it up with the party

Hains: do you think that the PNC should get us answers?

Fedeli:

- I don't sit on the PNC and I don't—

*Ferguson: *crosstalk* wasn't my question *crosstalk*-- cut through all that crap -*

Fedeli:

- I, I, I don't sit, I don't sit on the PNC

Ferguson: come on, come on. You're really going to think you can get away with that answer?

Fedeli:

- I don't sit on the PNC, and you should take it up with the party

Jeffords: but what about the broader, though, Vic? I mean, it looks like a political hit job? That—shouldn't that worry every single member of the Tory caucus?

Fedeli:

- I can't speak for what Toby said, and I don't sit on the PNC so I'm not familiar with the details

Jeffords: that if you've ever made a mistake in your past, no matter how big or how small, someone might pull it out of a red file and use it against you, within your own party?

Fedeli:

- I can't speak for what Toby offered and I don't sit on the PNC, so I don't know the details

Hains: have, have you heard about these red files?

Fedeli:

- I don't know what you're referring to

Ferguson: so, so as interim leader then, where does your authority, like, go? Does it not go that far? I mean—

Fedeli:

- We have, we have one leader of this party, and that's Doug Ford—the, the party leader
- As interim leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition, I serve in the legislature

Staffer: thanks everyone.

Fedeli:

- Thanks everybody

[END TRANSCRIPT]