

TRANSCRIPT – Gilles Bisson’s scrum post Sudbury decision– October 24, 2017

MPP: Gilles Bisson

Media: Lamoureux, CTV, Fitzpatrick (CBC)

[START TRANSCRIPT]

*Lamoureux: **French***

Bisson

- ***French***

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Bisson

- ***French***

*Lamoureux: **French***

Bisson

- ***French***

CBC: In English

Bisson

- What was that
- That language I’m trying to learn
- ***laughter***

CBC: So they – they’ve been acquitted?

Bisson

- Yeah, and I think, you know at the end what you saw was – you know interpretation of certain parts of the law
- The government was led off on the technicality
- And anybody who thinks that’s good news, I don’t think that’s good news
- At the end of the day, everybody heard the ***inaudible***
- Heard what was said
- At the end of the day people will draw their own conclusions
- And people will decide as we call, in the court of public opinion
- What was right and what was wrong
- All I know was that there are real issues that have to be dealt with
- People are worried about healthcare
- People are worried about long-term care

- People are worried about services in our community
- And this government was more obsessed by trying to win a by-election in Sudbury than they were in dealing with these issues

Media: Should this be a satisfactory result for the government, do you think?

Bisson:

- I don't think it's satisfactory for Ontarians to be blunt
- I think at the end what you need is you need to have a government that's focused on the problems of the people at home
- And what this showed was that this government first of all, would do anything in order to win that by-election
- And they got off on the technicalities
- So I don't see this as a good news story for the government
- They can be wrap this as a victory if they want
- But if that's how they measure victory, I think a lot of Ontarians will shake their heads

Media: Does the extent to which they went to, to win that by-election, does that speak volumes about this government?

Bisson:

- I think it does
- I think if we look at a lot of what they've done
- For example, the hydro plan
- They call it a Fair Hydro Plan
- They borrow \$3 billion dollars on OPG's credit card
- In order for us to essentially have a reduction on our hydro bills
- We're going to pay \$3 billion dollars extra
- Imagine what we could've done with that money
- We could've fixed long term care problems
- We could've fixed problems in our hospitals
- We could've fixed infrastructure problems
- Across Ontario
- Instead, we fixed a Liberal party having to do with the next election
- So I think this is the sort of pattern that we're seeing with this government
- Is always 'what's good for us and what's good for the next election'
- And I think the people themselves will decide if that was of indication or not

Media: so, you said they got off on technicalities. Do you think the judgement was – is tainted then?

Bisson:

- No
- I mean, I'm not saying it's tainted
- What I'm saying is, there's a technicality in regards to what bribery is
- Is that – as I read the judgement very quickly
- The Election Act and the bribery and the criminal charges are two different things
- All I know is that you're not allowed to offer somebody a – any kind of bribery
- Whatever to run or not run
- And that's what we heard on the tape
- So, in the court of public opinion
- I think most people heard the tape
- Heard what was said by Mrs. Sorbara
- And Mr. Lougheed
- I think they made up their own conclusions
- The fact that the government gets off on a technicality
- I don't think it's a great victory for them
- I think at the end of the day, we see a government that does everything it can in order to sort of edge itself towards the next election
- Trying to manage its crises for example on Hydro price
- You know, borrowing \$3-billion extra to try to – you know buy a bit of piece until the next election
- Where we could've used that money to do other things
- So I think it's all about what Liberals want to do for their political fortune
- Not what's good for people in Ontario

Media: Do you feel – do you feel like this clears the way for by-election now?

Bisson

- Well you know I – I –

Media: So you can be offered something to run or not to run

Bisson

- I hope
- I really hope what people draw out of this in the legislature, like governments and opposition is that you really need to have a democratic process by which you nominate people
- And at the end of the day it shouldn't be up to the political party leaders to decide
- In our party we have full nominations

- The Party leader cannot appoint a candidate
- It is decided by the local riding associations
- And the fact that Patrick Brown and Kathleen Wynne can do these kinds of things, I think is ****inaudible**** of democracy
- And I think they should look at what the NDP does, and say let's have free open nominations, where the memberships and the riding decide who the candidate is
- And then the voters decide who's going to be the MPP elected for this legislature

Media: Thank you

[END TRANSCRIPT]