

## REACTION TO THE 2017 BUDGET

6:00 PM Edition Television Broadcasts Surveyed: CFTO, City, Global, CBC, CHCH, CJOH, CKWS, CKVR, CKCO, CFPL, MCTV, CKPR

Categories: Deficit, Health, Housing, Revenue Tools (Taxes), Opposition

### DEFICIT

---

#### Positive

Rachel Curran, Former Director of Policy to Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, CBCNN, 6:04

- So is this budget really balanced? No of course not. They're probably relying on payments from their sale of Hydro One, so Ontario assets. Or counting pension payments as surpluses when they shouldn't be doing that. It's not a balanced budget. They have pursued an entirely disastrous set of policies for the province over the last 10 years, and those are now coming home to roost, so they're trying to cover that up and pretending they can get some of it back.

#### Negative

Bob Neale, Erns and Young, CHCH, 6:05 PM

- We've had record low interest rates for a long period of time. When you look at the information in the budget document, they note they've been able to prudently manage their interest expense in that the interest cost for the last several years has been in fact less than what they expected it to be. At some point in time, it's going to be more than what they expect it to be and that's the problem with having accumulated debt. It's sort of like having a mortgage on your house and never paying off the principal, but only paying the interest only and then having the interest rates go up and then suddenly you're affected each and every month.

### HEALTH

---

#### Positive

Jim Hornell, President and CEO Brant County Health System, CKCO, 6:03 PM

- Brantford General Hospital says they're underfunded but they're extremely pleased the government recognized the need for investment in health care. They say the 3 per cent increase in the system will help alleviate pressures that now fall on hospitals.

Susan Smith, Principal at Bluesky Strategy Group, 6:04 PM

- For families there is this child Pharmacare - I think is astounding. I think it's going to be transformative for many people.

### Negative

*Jules Tupker, President of Thunder Bay Health Coalition, CKPR, 6:13 PM*

- You go to the hospital...and you hear all kinds of stories about people struggling at the emergency department. Overcrowding at the hospital. They're still using the sun room for rooms. The hospital is clearly filled to capacity and long-term care homes are struggling with providing the services properly for long-term care so things will not improve as far as I can see.

*Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition, CFTO, 6:09 PM*

- That is not enough to deal with the wait times in Ontario. It's not enough to tack people off of stretchers, out of the hallways of hospitals waiting for beds because it doesn't even meet population growth and aging pressures.

*Sheila Block, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, CFTO, 6:09 PM*

- While it will increase access to drugs, it's missing an essential piece, which is those folks between the ages of 25 to 64.

### Mixed

*Robin MacLachlan, Vice-President of Summa Strategies, CBCNN, 6:04 PM*

- Kathleen Wynne's determined to outflank the NDP on the left again because it worked for her in 2014. Hence why you see this, what looks a bit like a back of a napkin Pharmacare plan. I want to say quickly to the Liberals that this is a good thing and I'm glad it's happening. It should happen for more Ontarian. There is 2.2 million who don't have a private drug plan.

## HOUSING

---

### Positive

*John Tory, Mayor of Toronto, CBC, 6:33 pm*

- The clarity that Toronto requires for its pressing social housing and transit needs has not been delivered today.
- The province appears to have missed an opportunity to partner in the historic investments made by the federal government in much needed future transit expansion and repairs to our vital social housing.

### Mixed

*Tim Hudak, CEO of Ontario Real Estate Association, CFTO, 6:45 PM*

- A lot of the rentals in Toronto have been condos over the years. You throw a whole bunch of red tape at that. I worry down the road there will be less choice when it comes to rentals and it will impact on mom and pop landlords.

## REVENUE TOOLS (TAXES)

---

## Mixed

*Jim Watson, Ottawa Mayor, CJOH, 6:04 PM*

- Philosophically, I don't have a difficulty with it, but I'd want to see what the industry wants. They were expecting something along these lines and I think they're going to have to regroup and determine what they're going to do. Because one of their concerns is they may start losing some of the big chains.

## OPPOSITION

---

### Patrick Brown

*CHCH, 6:01 PM*

- [Deficit] The province's debt has more than doubled to \$312 billion since the Liberals took office. This is higher than any province in the country, higher than any province or state in the world, yet the Liberals have no plan in this budget to get debt under control. For the next four years, we will pay nearly \$12 billion each year servicing the debt, \$1 billion a month. Each year we are paying \$1 billion more in interest payments on the debt than we did three years ago. We're spending more servicing the debt each year than we're spending on all transit and provincial highways.

*CHCH, 6:04 PM*

- [Pharmacare] I want to make sure that those precious taxpayer dollars are going to people that really need it and one of the questions asked of the Finance Minister is why should the government be paying for the kids of millionaires?

*CHCH, 6:07 PM*

- [Education] Here's the reality that they don't explain in their budget. Not only have they closed 600 schools, but there are 300 more on the chopping block.

*CHCH, 6:02 PM*

- [Pharmacare] I want to make sure that those precious taxpayer dollars are going to people that really need it and one of the questions asked of the Finance Minister is why should the government be paying for the kids of millionaires?

*CBC, 6:01 PM*

- [Other] This budget is a patchwork attempt by a desperate government to fix the mess they've created before the next election. It's a Hail Mary pass by a government that has run the province into the ground for years.

*CBC, 6:04 PM*

- [Deficit] The Wynne Liberals are cooking the books a year before the next election...let's be clear. This is not a balanced budget. They are in fact running an operational deficit worth more than \$5 billion. They are using every trick in the book to achieve this.

*GLOBAL, 5:33 PM*

- [Other] Patrick Brown: At the end of the day, we have to remember this – a Liberal is a Liberal. The Liberal government always goes back to their old ways and that is what they

will do if they win the next election. They're going to raise taxes even higher, cut even more in health care.

*GLOBAL, 6:03 PM*

- [Deficit] It's a shell game they're using to hide a \$5 billion operational deficit.

*CBC, 6:28 PM*

- [Pharmacare] That precious funds would go to pay for millionaire kids and that doesn't seem right.

## **Andrea Horwath**

*CHCH, 6:02 PM*

- [Health Care] This budget continues to sell off Hydro One and puts our power system even further into the hands of private and foreign for profit corporations. While our hospitals are overcrowded and patients wait for days on stretchers in hallways, the announced hospital funding will barely keep up with the rate of inflation. It falls over \$300 million short of what hospital say that they need to maintain services.

*CHCH, 6:03 PM*

- [Pharmacare] If I'm a young person, maybe this will impact me, but it won't impact my parents. If I'm a young person like my son whose 24 years old now, this will not have an impact on him whatsoever.

*CBC, 6:04 PM*

- [Other] To be blunt, this budget doesn't even come close to undoing the damage that Kathleen Wynne and her Liberal government have done over the past 14 years.

*CFPL, 5:59 PM*

- [Other] With this budget the premier is choosing to look away. She is closing her eyes to what every day families need. What patients need. What young people need.

*CKWS, 6:00 PM*

- [Pharmacare] It is another back in back of the napkin plan they shoved out of the door at the last minute. It was made clear to us that the best way to get started on a universal pharmacare plan is to provide an array of medications that are the most commonly prescribed for the most common ailments. That is where you get the biggest bang for the buck.

*GLOBAL, 6:00 PM*

- [Pharmacare] No, in fact, I think this is a real signal that we have a government that just does not get it, quite the opposite.

*GLOBAL, 5:34 PM*

- [Pharmacare] It sounds to me like another back of the napkin plan that they shoved out the door at the last minute. It was made clear to us that the best way to get started on a universal Pharmacare plan is to provide an array of medications that are the most commonly prescribed for the most common ailments, and that is where you get your biggest bang for the buck.

*GLOBAL, 6:03 PM*

- [Pharmacare] On the contrary. If I'm a young person, maybe this will impact me, but it won't impact my parent. If I'm a young person who is 24 years old, this doesn't have an impact on him whatsoever. This is a very meager measure that falls short, very short, of what the people of Ontario need and deserve.

### **Steve Clark**

*CKWS, 6:00 PM*

- [Other] To sum it all up, regardless of how this government spends this budget, Ontarians will see through it. They know that over the last 14 years life has become harder for families under this Liberal government.

### **Vic Fedeli**

*TVO, 8:21 PM*

- [Other] My headline and my kicker would be: Liberals announce fake budget balance. The kicker would be: Use their bully pulpit to purposefully deceive the public.
- [Deficit] That's what they were doing. What they will do is take the money from the sale of Hydro One, apply it as they say for infrastructure programs, but then take the money that was already budgeted for the infrastructure programs, pull that out to balance the budget, this false balance. There's 4 billion of it. And there's additional money. They're using, for instance, the teachers' pension fund, about a half a billion dollars of surplus there. They're not raiding it. But they're using that asset to list it in their books to help balance.
- [Housing] I think they've bungled this as well as bungling many of the other things, including hydro and health care. In this particular case they mused out loud weeks ago what they were talking about doing, and so landlords raised rents. So it's had the opposite effect. Just the way they began approaching it had the opposite effect. And then the fact again that they mused out loud about doing it, developers already -- it put a chill on the development. There are developers who have cancelled apartment and rental projects.
- [Northern Development] They've given up on the Ring of Fire. It was a billion dollars that's gone from the budget. It wasn't in the speech, it's not in the book. They took \$70 million, that's almost 10 per cent away from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. The interviews we both did up north, we both just could not believe -- I'm ashamed of this government for doing that.

### **John Vanthof**

*TVO, 8:21 PM*

- [Other] Liberals continue to fail to realize the struggle of Ontario's families.
- [Health Care] They are saying that they're helping Ontario families and one really good example is the operating budgets for hospitals. The booster shot. 5 million and change. 3 per cent. 2 per cent inflation. 1 per cent is covered by population growth. They have been frozen for years. We've got people in hallways. Obviously the hospitals are in crisis. This is a steady state. This isn't a booster shot. They're barely keeping up with inflation.
- [Pharmacare] This is not what universal health care should be. And we pushed very hard for this program and it's -- what we have a hard time with is every time we have to drag the Liberals kicking and screaming to actually do the right thing and although they kick and scream, they still don't get it right.

## **MEDIA SOURCES SCANNED**

---

*6:00 PM Edition Television Broadcasts Surveyed: CFTO, City, Global, CBC, CHCH, CJOH, CKWS, CKVR, CKCO, CFPL, MCTV, CKPR*