Daily Media Note May 11, 2017 5:00 P.M.

Good Afternoon Premier,

We have three items to update you on today:

- North Bay Tour Day Media Coverage
- Energy Legislation
- French and Chinese Media Update

North Bay Tour Day Media Coverage

Your media availability at One Kids Place this morning received significant media coverage this afternoon, from North Bay media outlets.

The North Bay Nugget filed a story with the headline "Wynne discusses OHIP plus". Media also covered your fireside chat at the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities conference. BayToday.ca filed a story with the headline: "Wynne addresses FONOM delegates in 'Fireside Chat'.

We have included the Nugget's story below for your reference:

Premier Kathleen Wynne was at One Kids Place children's treatment centre in North Bay this morning to discuss the government's new OHIP plus: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program.

The program, announced as part of the latest provincial budget, will provide free prescription medication to all children and youth 24 years of age or younger beginning Jan.1, 2018.

Wynne, who also took questions from the media, will be addressing the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities conference at Nipissing University at 1:15 p.m.

The Nugget will update this story later today.

Energy Legislation

Minister Thibeault was in the QP Media Studio this afternoon to announce Ontario has introduced legislation that would, if passed, lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential customers to provide significant rate relief and ensure greater fairness.

Prior to the minister's announcement a document was shared with the gallery suggesting that hydro bills in Ontario are projected to stay below last year's record high until 2021, but then climb steadily and surpass $200 a month on average in 2028.

Crawley filed a story with the headline: "How your hydro bill will rise over the next decade". Crawley reports six pages marked "Confidential Cabinet Document" were obtained by the Progressive Conservatives and provided to the media on Thursday. They give details of a policy option that would "meet a targeted 25 per cent reduction" off hydro bills.

Fergie reports the average Ontario hydro bill will jump almost $10 a month in 2022 and soar to $195 by 2027 under the Liberal government's hydro plan, according to a leaked cabinet document obtained by the Progressive Conservatives.

CP is reporting that Ontario`s efforts to lower bills for 10 years Ontarians will see lower hydro bills for the next 10 years, but will then pay the price for that decrease for the following 20 years, under new legislation introduced today. Then, the cost of paying back that debt which the government says will be up to $28 billion will go back onto ratepayers' bills for the next 20 years as a “Clean Energy Adjustment”.

Sudbury.com reports that PC Leader Brown says the Liberals are 'living in fantasy land' when it comes to hydro. "Unlike Kathleen Wynne, where they set policy behind closed doors at Queen's Park, I want to engage the broader membership. I want to make sure we listen to Ontarians and that means going to every town in Ontario and understanding that there are good ideas outside the bubble of Queen's Park," said Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario leader Patrick Brown, Wednesday, at Nipissing University during a Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities conference.

Minister Thibeault’s announcement and the PCs claim that hydro prices will “climb steadily” has received province-wide media coverage. We have seen additional coverage from the Toronto Sun, CBC, CTV and the Globe and Mail.

In response to the PC’s claim, Minister Thibeault has issued the following statement:

“Today we introduced legislation that, if passed, would reduce electricity bills by an average of 25 per cent for all households, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. Some households in rural and remote locations would see a reduction of up to 40 – 50 per cent. These reductions would be held to the rate of inflation for four years.

While we’re focussed on implementation of these changes that would make a real difference for Ontario’s families, Patrick Brown is desperately trying to justify his opposition to our plan to reduce electricity rates.

Patrick Brown and the PCs have instead decided to share an outdated document with data that is months old, as they try to distract from the fact that they have offered no credible ideas for hydro rate relief. We have been working on this plan for months, and as we worked on it the documents and calculations evolved, meaning that numbers shared by the PCs today are completely inaccurate.

As we’ve said, the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) will provide an update on how the Fair Hydro Plan would reduce rates and smooth the cost over the 20 year life of the energy asset. None of our final projections, which will be released in the LTEP, contain the numbers provided by the PCs today. We are confident that our Fair Hydro Plan would be fair to both current and future generations.

We have also said from the very start that our proposed Fair Hydro Plan would be like refinancing a mortgage. Our plan would deliver a 25 per cent on average reduction on electricity bills for all residential customers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province starting this summer. We’re accomplishing part of what would be the largest rate cut in Ontario history by spreading costs across the life of our electricity infrastructure assets. Current ratepayers would pay less now, and future ratepayers would in turn, help to pay *for their fair share of the significant investments we've made to build a clean and reliable electricity system, free of burning dirty coal. The Fair Hydro Act would more fairly share the cost of these investments across the generations of electricity ratepayers who will benefit from them.*

In developing the policy for the Fair Hydro Act, we have explored countless projections, and consulted many legal, accounting, and financial experts, and looked to other jurisdictions around North America that have the same plan. We are very confident in the work done to craft this proposed legislation.

Further, we continue to take costs out of our electricity system and save ratepayers money. Initiatives such as market renewal and capacity auctions are projected to take billions out of the electricity system, and build on previous initiatives such as renegotiating the Samsung agreement, deferring new nuclear builds, and the suspension of LRPII, all of which realized significant savings.

Once again we are the only party with a real plan. Instead, the PCs are sharing outdated, incorrect information in an effort to confuse the public and distract on a day the proposed legislation is introduced."

French and Chinese Media Update

French

Radio-Canada moved a story on the liberal confidential note released by the PC party today. The story is titled "Electricity bills will jump in 4 years, according to a confidential note" but also emphasized the response of the Minister of Energy who said that there is no coincidence that the opposition released such a note the day the government presents its plan that will lower electricity bills by 25%., and that he cannot comment on a specific document as he's seen thousands of them.

TFO and others Toronto French regional outlets reports that the French Catholic School Board in Centre-south - Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Sud (CSDCCS) – is rebranding itself with a new name: Mon avenir (My future). The rebranding is critical for the board to have a better visibility.

Chinese

With files from its parent paper the Star, Sing Tao picked up the story on the most pricy and least pricy condominiums along the subway lines. The joint statement by Premiers Wynne and Notely, a PO news release plus a photo was well used by two of the three dailies and all the onlines.

FYI – Media are reporting that Kathi Wallace is the new interim director of education for York Region District School Board. Trustees announced the appointment of the former Simcoe County District School Board education director May 11.

FYI – CBC News is reporting Air Canada and the well-known Aeroplan loyalty program will part ways in mid-2020, but the airline says customers can continue redeeming Aeroplan miles for Air Canada flights even after the new program is in effect.

FYI – Media are reporting Canada's Big Six banks have had their credit rating downgraded by Moody's over concerns rising consumer debt levels are making the banks more vulnerable to a shock. Canada's household debt levels have hit a record high of $1.67 in debt for every dollar in disposable income, as rising house prices force borrowers to take out larger mortgages.

FYI – The gallery scrummed Minister Del Duca on the results of the TTC random drug/alcohol testing. The minister was asked if Metrolinx/Go should be subjected to the same rules. Minister Del Duca said he respects the decision made by Toronto and urges all individuals operating any vehicle to ensure they are not operating under influence.

FYI – Tomorrow you will visit John Polanyi CI to tour travelling exhibition “Anne Frank – A History for Today” and participate in a student roundtable alongside Minister Hunter. I will be accompanying you at this event. In the afternoon you will deliver remarks at the Italian Earthquake Benefit Luncheon. Gurvinder will be accompanying you at this event.

As always, let us know if you have any questions.

Kate, Jenn, Gurvinder and Ronan