

Evening Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - June 11, 2017

From: "Law, Sally (CAB)" <sally.law@ontario.ca>
To: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>, "Donelson, Philip (OPO)" <philip.donelson@ontario.ca>, "Bossin, Bryan (OPO)" <bryan.bossin@ontario.ca>, "Tomney, Genevieve (OPO)" <genevieve.tomney@ontario.ca>, "Jancik, Mike (OPO)" <mike.jancik@ontario.ca>, "@CAB-Trans CO" <cab-transco@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Baker, Carys (ENERGY)" <carys.baker@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.bodrug@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY)" <katherine.festeryga@ontario.ca>, "Foster, David (ENERGY)" <david.foster@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY)" <kate.moseley-williams@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY)" <mark.olsheski@ontario.ca>, "Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY)" <raynier.ramasra@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Tresise, Landon (ENERGY)" <landon.tresise@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Walman, Evan (ENERGY)" <evan.walman@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>, "Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB)" <robert.digiovanni@ontario.ca>, "Law, Sally (CAB)" <sally.law@ontario.ca>, "Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB)" <jeffrey.stinson@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <gavin.halford@ontario.ca>, "Ma, Cesue (CAB)" <cesue.ma@ontario.ca>, Electronic Media <cab.emedia@ontario.ca>
Date: Sun, 11 Jun 2017 21:00:01 -0400
Attachments: 20170611 - Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction (Evening Scan).doc (69.12 kB)

Sunday (Evening) Media Scan: June 11, 2017

MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

June 11, 2017

[Click links below to view article:](#)

Online Coverage

[Toronto Sun: Wynne's Liberals have lost touch with reality](#)

TV Transcripts

[None](#)

Online Coverage

Toronto Sun: Wynne's Liberals have lost touch with reality

Opinion Editorial

Updated: Saturday, June 10, 2017 10:13 PM EDT

<http://www.torontosun.com/2017/06/10/wynnes-liberals-have-lost-touch-with-reality>

At some point in the life of every government there comes a moment when it jumps the shark.

When its rhetoric becomes completely detached from the reality of people's daily lives.

For many Ontarians, that moment must have come when Finance Minister Charles Sousa asked Ontarians in his April 27 budget speech to, "imagine what we can do now" that the Wynne government has a balanced budget.

Ditto when Premier Kathleen Wynne said the balanced budget will enable the government to focus on new spending to make society fairer.

Never mind that Ontario's independent, non-partisan spending watchdog, Financial Accountability Officer Stephen LeClair, says the government's balanced budget is a mirage, created in large part due to one-time asset sales and that over the long term, the Liberals will have to raise taxes or cut services to keep it balanced.

Never mind that LeClair described the government's plan to rebate hydro rates by 25% as, "a complicated accounting structure that will increase gross debt by approximately \$26 billion by 2027-28, but does not impact the Province's net debt due to the creation of a regulatory/investment asset."

And that: "If the creation of the regulatory/investment asset does not meet with public sector accounting standards, then the Province's annual surplus/deficit would deteriorate by a total of \$26 billion over the next 11 years ..."

Never mind that while the Liberals boast about having invested billions of dollars upgrading the province's electricity system, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk, another independent, non-partisan, spending watchdog, said in her 2015 annual report that between 2010 and 2014, Hydro One customers experienced 24% more power outages, lasting 30% longer, while costs to run the system increased by 31%.

And that Hydro One is "consistently one of the least reliable among large Canadian electricity distributors" with a maintenance backlog that increased by 47%, and power outages by 7%, between 2012 and 2014.

And that, the risk of power failures was increasing because Hydro One hadn't replaced \$4.5 billion in transmission assets, "that have exceeded their planned useful service life".

Now consider the reality of patients admitted to overcrowded hospitals through emergency rooms who are spending days on stretchers in hallways, because there's no where else for them to go.

Consider Toronto's crumbling social housing with its \$2.6 billion repair backlog.

Or the \$3.4 billion backlog in repairs to Toronto's public schools.

While these problems existed prior to the Liberals taking power in 2003, the point is, they all got worse during the nine consecutive years they were saddling Ontarians with more deficits and debt in order to, they claimed, maintain public services.

So the Wynne government's real promise, apparently, is to address the same problems with a balanced budget that their years of deficit financing didn't address.

In other words, they've jumped the shark.

TV Transcript

None