

Facts Still Matter in Ontario - April 12, 2017

From: Liberal Caucus <research@liberal.ola.org>
To: Liberal Caucus <research@liberal.ola.org>
Date: Wed, 12 Apr 2017 13:49:45 -0400

Good Afternoon,

Given Patrick Brown's statements today it's clear that he's still comfortable misleading the public about basic facts about Ontario. His comments today once again show he doesn't believe that Facts Still Matter in Ontario

He claimed: There will be an *"artificial budget balance"*

Fact: Ontario is leading the G7 in economic growth and we are balancing the budget this year, even the FAO confirmed this would be happening.

(Source: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/ecaccts/>, http://www.fao.org/en/Blog/media/media_release_EFO_Spring_2016)

He claimed: *"Ontario's debt burden is increasingly hindering our future generations,"*

Fact: The recently released Q3 Finances show interest payments going down and spending on Health care, Education, Children's Services, Post-secondary education going up

(Source: http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/finances/2016/ofin16_3.html#secE)

He claimed: That *"cap and trade...will take \$2 B away from taxpayers"*

Fact: Wrong. Putting a cap on the pollution businesses can release into the atmosphere guarantees emission reductions at the cheapest price possible for people and the economy. It's the best approach forward for Ontario. Every dollar generated will be deposited in a dedicated account and reinvested into green projects like transit, electric vehicle incentives and housing retrofits that fight climate change. This means every dollar goes back into helping families and businesses successfully make the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Patrick Brown's own carbon tax scheme would cost families and businesses four times more without guaranteeing any reductions. And it doesn't include the investments necessary to reduce costs for families and businesses.

(Source: <https://www.enviroeconomics.org/single-post/2016/05/17/Impact-Modelling-and-Analysis-of-Ontario%E2%80%99s-Proposed-Cap-and-Trade-Program>)

He claimed: We need to introduce *"immediate steps to address...Ontario's hydro crisis"*

Fact: The only party yet to bring a plan forward to address hydro costs is the one led by Patrick Brown. Unlike him, we're moving with our Fair Hydro Plan which will lower bills by 25% on average for families and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. Low-income families in rural and remote areas will see a decrease as high as 40 – 50 per cent. People are already benefitting from an 8% cut, with the rest to come this summer. This is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates going down and staying

down because they'll be held to inflation over the next four years.

(Source: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-fair-hydro-plan>)

He claimed: *"Their careless decision to wait until the last moment has resulted in unprecedented inability for families in Toronto and the GTA and Ontario to afford homes."*

Fact: It's Patrick Brown who has waited until the last moment to tip-toe his way into the conversation. Unlike his vague proposals, we've already taken concrete action and have committed to doing more. Recent action, like freezing the municipal property tax on apartment buildings to provide relief to renters and doubling the maximum refund for first time home buyers, is helping right now. More long-term measures, like collecting more data to better understand Ontario's housing market and giving communities the tools through inclusionary zoning to require affordable units to be created and maintained in new developments, will also help. Building on these initial steps, we will soon be introducing a comprehensive package of measures to help more Ontarians find an affordable place to call home. We look forward to announcing more in the near future.

(Source: <https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/04/11/wynne-to-meet-mayors-on-housing-affordability.html>)