

Facts Still Matter in Ontario

From: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>
To: "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <rebecca.mackenzie@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
Cc: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
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Travails in Timmins – Facts Still Matter in Ontario – August 25, 2017

Not a day goes by without Patrick Brown taking his travelling roadshow of false claims and misinformation somewhere else in Ontario. With today's stop in Timmins, he should know by now that north or south, east or west – wherever Patrick Brown finds himself – Facts Still Matter in Ontario.

He claimed: *"Who's standing up for the forestry sector?"*

Fact: We are.

(Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/ontario-u-s-trade-lobbying-buy-american-1.4106444>)

He claimed: *"Who's standing up for the mining sector?"*

Fact: We are.

(Source: <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/mining/province-announces-planning-to-start-for-ring-of-fire-road-699895>)

He claimed: *"Who's standing up against...these out-of-control hydro rates?"*

Fact: Patrick Brown knows that our Fair Hydro Plan provides immediate relief in the short-term by reducing electricity bills by 25% on average for all Ontarians - up to 40-50% if you're rural or low-income. It then holds rates to inflation for the following 4 years, managing affordability in the medium-term. Our 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan will show Ontario families and businesses a snapshot of our future energy system, including supply, demand, and affordability, over the longer term.

What makes matters worse for Brown is that he voted against our Fair Hydro Plan without offering any plan of his own.

(Source: <http://globalnews.ca/news/3548802/ontario-hydro-bill-cuts-july-1/>)

He claimed: *"the Wynne Liberals have dragged their feet on recognizing that [opioids are] a crisis"*

Fact: Not true. We launched our comprehensive opioid strategy almost a year ago, with naloxone also being available without a prescription for even longer than that. Since then, the steps we've taken to protect Ontarians have included:

Launching a new opioid surveillance and reporting system

Providing funding to every board of health in Ontario to hire more front-line addiction and mental health workers

Making naloxone free of charge to anyone in need in over 200 cities and towns across the province

Moving forward with safe injection sites to help save lives

Delisting high-strength formulations of long-acting opioids from the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary

Investing \$17 million annually in Ontario's Chronic Pain Network to create or enhance 17 chronic pain clinics across the province

Implementing stricter controls on the prescribing and dispensing of fentanyl patches

And meeting with Mayors across the province so we can work together to fight this crisis.

(Sources: <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2016/06/naloxone-now-available-without-a-prescription-in-ontario-pharmacies.html>; <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2016/10/ontario-taking-action-to-prevent-opioid-abuse.html>, <https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2017/06/more-front-line-workers-for-every-community-in-ontario-to-combat-opioid-crisis.html>)