

Media Scan: Premier Wynne & Hydro One - April 19, 2018

From: "Law, Sally (CAB)" <sally.law@ontario.ca>
To: "@CAB-Trans PO" <cab-transpo@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "@CAB-Trans CO" <cab-transco@msgov.gov.on.ca>
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*As requested by Rebecca MacKenzie

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TV Coverage

GLOBAL: PC Leader Doug Ford Renews Attack On Hydro One CEO

Source: GLOBAL

Apr 19, 2018 5:59 PM (18)

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: They're having a secret meeting to double their compensation in case they get fired? How shameful and how disgusting are these people to do something like that?

Anchor: Topping our news at six tonight, more fuel for anger over hydro prices in Ontario. PC Leader Doug Ford says the executives at Hydro One, who he has threatened to fire, have given themselves more severance money if the government intervenes. Jamie Mauracher is live outside Hydro One with a reality check on all of this tonight. Jamie?

Reporter: Well Alan, you heard it there. Doug Ford attacking the man that he's dubbed the \$6 million man once again, CEO Mayo Schmidt, the CEO of Hydro One. Now Ford alleges that Schmidt as well as the

utility board had a secret meeting where they increased the severance provisions of Schmidt's, meaning that if he were to be let go he would get \$10.7 million, making it essentially more costly if Ontario tried to take control of Hydro One again if he were to lose his job. Here's what Ford had to say earlier today and how the Minister of Energy responded.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I'm here calling on those people to resign. And if they don't, let me tell you something. When I am Premier, you better believe I'm kicking each and every one of them out the door.

Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Energy Minister: Decisions made by executive compensation at Hydro One are made by the Hydro One board. We are not micromanagers of it.

Reporter: So Ford tapping into a lot of anger again. But you have to remember that the reality here is that even if they were to get rid of the board, the Minister of Energy says that would never lower hydro prices. It should also be noted that this didn't happen just last week. This actually happened, this meeting took place in November of 2017, meaning it likely had nothing to do with Ford coming after Hydro One. We did reach out to Hydro One's board members as well as Hydro One itself, we did speak with one board member who refused to comment but did direct us to the chair, David Denison, who says that they speak for the board. We are waiting on getting a comment back from Hydro One and Denison, but don't have one yet. However, we did speak to an employment lawyer today who says basically, this is just business as usual.

Daniel Chodos, Employment Lawyer: You have to be cautious to make sure that you're paying your employees an amount that will allow you to retain your good people. That applies to the CEO and it applies on down the line from them.

Reporter: Even when it comes to severance pay?

Chodos: Particularly when it comes to severance pay. We do a lot of work with executives and severance pay is a major source of conversation and a major discussion point when you're drafting and discussing and negotiating contracts with them.

Reporter: So this isn't unusual at this level?

Chodos: No at this level it's not unusual at all.

Reporter: So you might be sitting there at home thinking how would this affect you? Well in the case of a termination some of the money would be public money, some of it private of course, because the government still does hold shares in the company. So it does have that slight effect.

CFTO Premier Wynne Says Ford's Plan To Cut Corporate Tax W
Source: CFTO
Apr 19, 2018 6:15 PM (16)

Anchor 1: To the race to become the next Premier of Ontario, and today the issue of corporate tax cuts took centre stage.

Anchor 2: It's a promise from PC leader Doug Ford, but his opponents are questioning who will benefit from slashing income tax rates. Our John Musselman is following the latest campaign developments. He is live at a Wynne event at the Liberty Grand. John?

Reporter: That's right, Zuraidah. The Premier just left a short time ago after making some remarks here at a private dinner, but you're right. All the talk today was about that corporate tax policy. There is the Wynne version and then there's the Doug Ford version.

Reporter: The election campaign hasn't officially started yet, but it sure feels like it. Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford are exchanging daily jabs over issues like the minimum wage, hydro rates, and tax cuts. Today Ford pledged to cut the corporate income tax rate by 1 per cent if elected. The Premier says that move only helps the wealthy.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: The reality is that lowering that corporate tax rate will help the big guy. It helps big corporations. Doug Ford is a wealthy man. He has always been a wealthy man. And so he thinks like a wealthy man.

Reporter: At a news conference today Ford once again vowed to fire the CEO and the entire board of Hydro One, calling the executive salaries disgraceful. He was also asked about the corporate tax cut proposal and if it would benefit his family's Etobicoke label company. Here is Ford's response.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I don't benefit a penny. Matter of fact, if anything I'm losing money doing this job, but it's worth it.

Reporter: Meanwhile, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath put out a statement about hydro rates. She claims Wynne and Ford are missing the point. She says privatization isn't working. "New Democrats will bring Hydro One back into public hands, rein in executive salaries, and lower everyone's hydro bills by about 30 per cent." Now back to Doug Ford. He says he would put his family business in a blind trust. He's also saying he's hearing all across the province that businesses want a break. That's why he is proposing cutting the corporate tax rate.

CITY TV PC Leader Ford Calling On Hydro One Board To Step D
Source: CITY TV
Apr 19, 2018 6:22 PM (11)

Reporter: New pre-election sparring today and this time Hydro One was the hot topic. You might remember Doug Ford saying he wanted to remove the utility's CEO, calling him the "\$6 million man." Well, now a report suggests that the board has voted to raise the severance of the executive should the government step in. Well, that had Ford all fired up today.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: This is outrageous. While, Ontario seniors are unable to pay their bills, families are forced to choose between heating and eating, where was Kathleen Wynne? Why wasn't Kathleen Wynne getting mad?

Reporter: Ford also says he'd boot out the rest of Hydro One board who he calls the millionaires club. At Queen's Park, the Energy Minister refused to say what knew about severance plan or if the government's representative on Hydro One's board voted for it. But he did question Ford's plan to clean house at the utility saying it wouldn't bring down Ontarians' electricity costs.

Unidentified 1: Did you know about this change?

Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Energy Minister: Decisions made by executive compensation at Hydro One are made by the Hydro One board. We are not micro managers of it

Unidentified 1: Members on the board though.

Unidentified 2: Do you agree with what they've done? Is this okay?

Minister Thibeault: I've always said that I get and I recognize that executive salaries and the compensation being brought forward is, you know, vast compared to what many Ontarians, you know, will ever see in their lifetime. But, you know, it makes me wonder as to what – what is Doug Ford trying to accomplish by this? Because when he's talking about saying he wants to fire the CEO of Hydro One, that doesn't do a thing to actually reduce bills.

Reporter: Last summer after public outcry, the Liberals rolled out a plan to tamp down Ontario's energy bills which included a rebate and capping increases at the rate of inflation. Meanwhile today, Premier Wynne trying to paint Doug Ford as part of that millionaires' club himself after Ford announced he would cut the corporate tax rate from 11.5 per cent to 10.5.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: Doug Ford, he says he's going to lower the corporate income tax rate. He also says he's for the little guy. The reality is that lowering that corporate tax rate will help the big guy. It helps big corporations. Doug Ford is a wealthy man. He has always been a wealthy man, and so he thinks like a wealthy man.

Reporter: Doug Ford says he would put his business interests, including his family interest in Deco Labels company aside to avoid conflicts if he was elected.

CBC: Premier Promises More Beds For Ontario Seniors
Source: CBC

Apr 19, 2018 6:23 PM (10)

Anchor: The Premier was in Toronto today promising more beds for seniors in long-term care. She is also defending comparing Doug Ford to Donald Trump.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: What is unusual about what is happening right now is that there seems to be some permission for sloganeering, you know? Throwing out statements that may or may not be true and expecting us all to just accept those as the truth. I'm not going to do that.

Anchor: Kathleen Wynne was addressing an audience at Kensington Gardens. She said a Liberal government will build 30,000 more long-term care beds over the next decade. Earlier, on an interview on Metro Morning, Wynne said comparing Ford to Trump isn't a campaign strategy ahead of the June provincial election. She said what she is doing is calling out Ford's attacks on her integrity.

CBC: Ontario PC Leader Continues Calls For Hydro One CEO To Resign
Source: CBC
Apr 19, 2018 6:24 PM (11)

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I'm here calling on those people to resign. And if they don't, let me tell you something, when I'm Premier, you better believe I'm kicking each and every one of them out the door.

Anchor: Doug Ford continued meanwhile continued his attack on Hydro One today. Ford called on the utilities' CEO and board to resign, and renewed his pledge to fire them if they don't step down. The Ontario PC leader said if elected he will bring in retroactive legislation targeting Hydro One executives.

CBOT Premier Wynne Has Announced 30,000 More Long-Term Care Beds
Source: CBOT
Apr 19, 2018 6:11 PM (8)

Anchor: Ontario's Premier was in Toronto today promising more beds for seniors in long-term care. She's also defending her comparison of Doug Ford to Donald Trump.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: What's unusual about what's happening right now is that there seems to be some permission for sloganeering, you know, throwing out statements that may or may not be true and expecting us all to just accept those as the truth. I'm not going to do that.

Anchor: Kathleen Wynne was addressing an audience at Kensington Gardens. She said a Liberal government would build 30,000 long-term care beds over the next decade. Earlier, in an interview with CBC, Wynne said comparing Ford to Trump is not a campaign strategy ahead of the June provincial election. She said what she's doing is calling out Ford's attacks on her integrity.

CBOT Doug Ford Has Reiterated Promises To Do With Hydro One
Source: CBOT
Apr 19, 2018 6:12 PM (9)

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I'm here calling on those people to resign. And if they don't, let me tell you something. When I'm premier, you better believe I'm kicking each and every one of 'em out the door.

Anchor: Doug Ford, meanwhile, continued his attack on Hydro One today. Ford called on the utility CEO and the board to resign. He also renewed his pledge to fire them if they don't step down. The Ontario PC Leader said if elected, he'll bring in retroactive legislation targeting Hydro One executives.

CHCH Premier Wynne And Doug Ford Continue To Criticize Each Other
Source: CHCH
Apr 19, 2018 6:08 PM (6)

Anchor: The provincial election campaign hasn't officially started yet but the premier has warned that it will be a vicious one. Kathleen Wynne and PC leader Doug Ford continue to throw punches today. Nicole Martin has that story.

Reporter: Premier Kathleen Wynne is facing a tough re-election campaign but she is making it clear that there'll be no backing down on this war of words.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: I'm not going to allow smears to stand. I'm just not going to allow that.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: She's destroyed this province for the last 15 years.

Reporter: Ford's statement earlier this week triggered growing tensions between the two leaders. Ford said if he wins the election, he'd call in an outside auditor to probe government spending saying, "If Kathleen Wynne tried to pull these kinds of shady tricks in private life, then there would be a few more Liberals joining David Livingstone in jail," referring to the former Liberal aide to Dalton McGuinty. He was sentenced to four months in jail for deleting hard drives related to the gas plant scandal. With Ford's comments, he's now being compared to President Donald Trump.

Donald Trump, U.S. President: If I win, I'm going to instruct my Attorney General to get a special prosecutor to look into your situation.

Henry Jacek, Political Science Professor: She said yesterday I'm not Hillary Clinton because I'm not going to take the slanderous things that you're throwing at me.

Reporter: Political science professor Henry Jacek says Ford's been echoing a similar tone to Trump but when Wynne's comments were repeated to the PC leader yesterday, here was Ford's reaction.

Premier Wynne: Doug Ford sounds like Donald Trump and that's because he is like Donald Trump.

Ford: She's getting desperate.

Reporter: Jacek says it's not desperation, it's a smart move by Wynne but it could end up benefiting NDP leader Andrea Horwath the most.

Jacek: Out of the three party leaders, almost all the surveys show she's the most popular. So she just sits there while they're throwing mud at each other.

Reporter: Today, Ford kept his focus on the corporate tax rate and his plan to lower it by one per cent.

Ford: Ontario is not competitive any longer. We're going to turn the corner.

Reporter: But Wynne who will keep corporate taxes at 11.5 per cent says lowering it and halting the minimum wage hike will only benefit the wealthiest Ontarians.

Premier Wynne: Doug Ford is a wealthy man. He has always been a wealthy man and so he thinks like a wealthy man.

Ford: I'm putting my life on hold. I'm sacrificing the future of my children to make sure that we have a better Ontario.

Reporter: Voters head to the polls on June 7th. Nicole Martin, CHCH News.

CHCH Political Commentator Discusses Feud Between Premier

Source: CHCH

Apr 19, 2018 6:11 PM (7)

Anchor: Let's bring in political commentator Keith Leslie from Queen's Park. Now Keith, you've been covering Queen's Park for more than 20 years. Do you remember an election campaign this nasty?

Keith Leslie, Political Commentator: No I don't. Not out of the gate. This one got nasty in a hurry, didn't it? Election campaigns in Ontario tend to be kind of stayed and almost boring affairs. Leadership campaigns tend to be where you get to the real bitter fights and more personal attacks cause they're not talking policy. Elections tend to be a bit more, as I say, stayed and almost boring in Ontario. Even when Dalton McGuinty was running against Mike Harris, he didn't portray him as an evil man, he just attacked his policies. This one, right out the gate, you're a liar, you're a bully, I'm not going to go high, I'm going to go low. This is some pretty nasty stuff right out the gate. I don't think I've ever seen anything quite this harsh right away.

Anchor: Now that says something. Who's to blame for the malicious kind of tone of the campaign?

Leslie: Well I guess you know, it's a pox on both Mr. Ford and Ms. Wynne's houses for doing this. Mr. Ford has obviously got a bombastic style. I mean he's obviously been compared with Mr. Trump and that's where Ms. Wynne went with this and you know, Ms. Wynne said she thought Michelle Obama had the right thing when she said you know when they go low, we'll go high but I'm not going to do that because it didn't keep Donald Trump out of the White House and it won't keep Doug Ford from becoming premier of Ontario. So she's saying I'm going to keep this nasty and saying he's already running a vicious campaign. So both of them I think are really going at each other pretty in very personal ways which is normally not the way in Ontario.

Anchor: Let's talk about the third party leader, NDP leader Andrea Horwath. She has managed to stay out of the line of fire but in doing so, she's also staying out of the spotlight. So does she stand to benefit or gain from this war of words?

Leslie: Well that's the real question; can she even be heard above this war of words as these two grab all the headlines? Ford and Wynne going at each other with such personal attacks. Ford really attacking the Liberal policies but coming very, very close to using things like, almost saying "lock her up," saying that she should be jailed or other Liberals should be jailed because you're a corrupt government. So hopefully Horwath in her mind can get above all that, stay above the fray and get heard. But I suspect if she doesn't, at some point she's going to have to join in and maybe come out fighting just as hard as the other two. She's already pretty critical of Mr. Ford and of course attacks the Wynne government but playing nice is not going to get her heard when these other two are really, really fighting so hard and so viciously.

Anchor: Alright. We always appreciate your insights. That is Keith Leslie from Toronto.

CFPL Doug Ford Takes Tour Of Midwestern Ontario, Promises I

Source: CFPL

Apr 19, 2018 6:09 PM (7)

Anchor: The man who wants to be premier was in Midwestern Ontario today. Doug Ford toured a Teeswater area dairy farm this afternoon. He also spent part of the day touring Bruce Power, the world's largest nuclear plant located near Kincardine. Although he is from Toronto, Ford says he will do better for rural Ontarians than Kathleen Wynne would. Now Conservatives do currently have a stranglehold on rural ridings in Ontario. Ford will wrap up his swing through Midwestern Ontario with a rally in Mildmay at 6:30.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I am going to support these farmers. They are a little frustrated to say the least with Kathleen Wynne. They don't believe that she is listening to them or supporting them in any way. I am here to support the farmers. I love them. They are the backbone not only to the country, of this province and just amazing how hard these folks work.

CFPL Premier Criticizing Ford Over His Pledge To Slash Corpo

Source: CFPL

Apr 19, 2018 6:10 PM (8)

Anchor: Meanwhile, Ontario premier Kathleen Wynne is slamming Ford over his pledge to slash the corporate income tax rate. This comes a day after she compared Ford to U.S. President Donald Trump. Wynne says Ford may say he fights for the little guys but she says his plan to cut the corporate tax rate from 11.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent while stopping the next scheduled minimum wage hike shows that he is fighting for the big guy.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: When Doug Ford is putting forward two policies, he is saying I'm going to lower corporate income tax and I am not going to increase the minimum wage. I think it makes it clear that he understands the thinking of wealthy corporations and wealthy people and their bottom line but doesn't necessarily get that what he is proposing for minimum wage workers is going to make them worse off.

Q: You are ensuring that your company's tax bill is smaller by the policies you are putting forward.

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I am putting a one per cent reduction in taxes to attract new businesses to Ontario and once I put in the blind trust, and you actually get your facts right because you don't have your facts right about the structure of our company, then we will have another discussion on that. But I can tell

you I don't benefit a penny. As a matter of fact, matter of fact, if anything I am losing money doing this job but it's worth it.

Anchor: Wynne says the Liberals would keep the corporate tax rate the same and raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour next year.

CKCO All Three Party Leaders Have Commented On Hydro Rate

Source: CKCO

Apr 19, 2018 6:19 PM (9)

Anchor: To the race to become the next premier of Ontario. And today the issue of corporate tax cuts took centre stage. It's a promise from PC leader Ford, but his opponents are questioning who will benefit from slashing income tax rates. CTV's John Musselman reports.

Reporter: The election campaign hasn't officially started yet but it sure feels like it. Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ontario PC leader Doug Ford are exchanging daily jabs over issues like the minimum wage, hydro rates, and tax cuts. Today, Ford pledged to cut the corporate income tax rate by 1 per cent if elected. The premier says that move only helps the wealthy.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: The reality is that lowering that corporate tax rate helps the big guy, it helps big corporations. Doug Ford is a wealthy man. He has always been a wealthy man. So he thinks like a wealthy man.

Reporter: At a news conference today, Ford once again vowed to fire the CEO and entire board of Hydro One, calling the executive salaries disgraceful. He was also asked about the corporate tax cut proposal and if it would benefit his family's Etobicoke label company. Here is Ford's response:

Doug Ford, Ontario PC Leader: I don't benefit a penny. Matter of fact, if anything, I'm losing money doing this job but it's worth it.

Reporter: Meanwhile, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath put out a statement about hydro rates. She claims Wynne and Ford are missing the point. She says privatization isn't working: "New Democrats will bring Hydro One back into public hands, rein in executive salaries, and lower everyone's hydro bills by about 30 per cent." John Musselman, CTV News, Toronto.

MCTV Premier Responds To PC Leader's Pledge To Slash Corp

Source: MCTV

Apr 19, 2018 6:17 PM (10)

Anchor: Welcome. A day after she compared him to US President Donald Trump, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is slamming PC Leader Doug Ford, over his pledge to slash the corporate income tax rate. More from CTV's John Musselman.

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per cent.” John Musselman, CTV News.

CKVR Premier Wynne Has Commented On Ford's Plan to Cut Corporate Tax

Source: CKVR

Apr 19, 2018 6: 11 PM (10)

Anchor: The election campaign hasn't officially started yet but it sure feels like it has. Premier Kathleen Wynne and PC Leader Doug Ford are exchanging jabs on an almost daily basis on issues like the minimum wage, hydro rates, and today corporate tax cuts. Here's CTV's John Musselman.

Reporter: The election campaign hasn't officially started yet but it sure feels like it. Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ontario PC leader Doug Ford are exchanging daily jabs over issues like the minimum wage, hydro rates, and tax cuts. Today, Ford pledged to cut the corporate income tax rate by 1 per cent if elected. The premier says that move only helps the wealthy.

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CKPR Premier Criticizing Ford Over His Pledge To Cut Corporate Tax

Source: CKPR

Apr 19, 2018 6:07 PM (8)

Anchor: A day after she compared him to U.S. President Donald Trump, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is again slamming PC leader Doug Ford over his pledge to slash the corporate income tax rate. Wynne says Ford may say he fights for the little guy but she says his plan to cut the corporate tax rate from 11.5 to 10.5 per cent while stopping the next scheduled minimum wage hike shows that Ford is actually fighting for the big guy.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: Doug Ford is putting forward two policies. He is saying I'm going to lower corporate income tax and I am not going to increase the minimum wage. I think it makes it clear that he understands the thinking of wealthy corporations and wealthy people and their bottom line but doesn't necessarily get that what he is proposing for minimum wage workers is going to make them worse off.

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