

QP Briefing - Morning Edition

From: "Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB)" <jeffrey.stinson@ontario.ca>
To: "@CAB-QP Briefing" <cab-qpbriefing@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Thu, 19 Oct 2017 08:18:01 -0400

Your morning briefing
19.10.2017
Christopher Reynolds

Note: This material is copyright protected and not to be redistributed outside of Cabinet Office under any circumstances

Headlines

The announcement Wednesday of Gord Downie's death triggered heartfelt remembrances at Queen's Park from all three party leaders. After a moment of silence in the house, Premier Kathleen Wynne said the Tragically Hip's lead singer, a Kingston native, made music that was "a quintessential part of being Canadian ... and I know that there are literally millions of Canadians who are in mourning today."

Ailing General Electric workers in Peterborough are still waiting for justice, with accusations the labour ministry hasn't made good on promises of funding and support, the Toronto Star reports. Dozens of workers who believe they developed cancer and other illnesses from working at the GE plant found their cases in limbo last week, rejected by the workers' compensation board. Their demand for previously pledged dollars from the province follows a Star investigation into the plant's "lethal legacy," according to the Star.

Our stories from yesterday:

- The estimated \$4-billion 'needless' cost of the Fair Hydro Plan dominates debate at Queen's Park
- Peter Wallace's Vulcan responses disarm defence counsel at gas plants email trial
- Ed Clark sells Ontario's pitch for Amazon
- In brief: CUPE remonstrations, Trillium litigation, Alectra expansion and labour bill progression

In other news:

The PCs are baying for blood from a desired political death, calling on Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault to resign in the wake of a report from the auditor general that detailed \$4 billion spent "improperly" on the government's "needlessly complex" hydro plan — though it was hatched before his time — the Sudbury Star reports.

Per CBC, the Tories also asked the province's top bureaucrat to make sure all documents are preserved after Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk claimed the Liberal government tried to hide not only the real cost of its hydro price cuts, but also emails her investigation requested in May.

Meanwhile, the government faced more fiery questions from the NDP on Wednesday following revelations the environment ministry allegedly sloughed off health warnings from its own engineers about Sarnia's Chemical Valley, the Toronto Star reports.

No new talks are in the works as the college strike hits Day 3, the Star writes. Meanwhile, a college student association is trying to stay unbiased as it encourages students to continue their studies

during the college strike, according to the Timmins Press.

An Essex County school board is mulling a later start to the high school day, addressing a yawning gap in understanding the teenage mind, the Windsor Star reports.

The Kingston Whig-Standard has devoted its entire homepage to Downie-linked coverage.

Come 10:30 a.m., don't forget to tune into our liveblog, commenting on the raucousness of another Question Period.

From the opinion pages:

- John Michael McGrath opines that the government has declined to take up the auditor general's request to stop lying in their hydro books.
- Martin Regg Cohn argues the AG's hydro qualms are ultimately "an arcane accounting dispute."
- Christie Blatchford scrutinizes bureaucrats' "cover-your-ass" approach, using the lens of the gas plants trial.
- The Star editorial board says all parties should support a private members' bill to ban mandatory high heels in the workplace, granting women choice. (Restricting it, Quebec decides the state has business in the closets of the nation and bans face coverings in public.)
- Lorrie Golstein proclaims that Jagmeet Singh is playing the race card in the wake of a controversial question by the CBC's Terry Milewski last week.

Bills

Resuming the debate adjourned on Oct. 17, 2017 on the motion for Second Reading of Bill 166, An Act to amend or repeal various Acts and to enact three new Acts with respect to the construction of new homes and ticket sales for events.

Private members' bills:

Reading of Bill 162, An Act to amend the Insurance Act to authorize life settlements.

Second Reading of Bill 167, An Act to amend the Consumer Reporting Act.

Second Reading of Bill 168, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to footwear.

Committees

9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Standing Committee on General Government will meet to consider Bill 163, An Act to enact the Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017 and to amend the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in relation to abortion services. Room No. 151.

9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Standing Committee on Justice Policy will meet to consider Bill 154, An Act to cut unnecessary red tape by enacting one new Act and making various amendments and repeals. Room No. 1

Events

8:30 a.m.

Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour, will hold a media event and availability in Kitchener. D1Zi Digital, Suite 225, 283 Duke Street W., Kitchener.

9 a.m.

Liberal MPP Arthur Potts will be commenting on his bill, the Fairness In Consumer Reporting Act. Media Studio, Queen's Park.

10 a.m.

Ontario's Financial Accountability Office will release its Long-term Budget Outlook. Media Studio, Queen's Park.

10:30 a.m.

Premier Kathleen Wynne to attend Question Period. Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park.

2 p.m.

Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth, accompanied by Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, will make an announcement. Biolab Pharma Ltd., 1790 Matheson Boulevard, Unit 2, Mississauga.

7 p.m.

Wynne to deliver remarks at the retirement tribute for Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes. The Carlu, 7th Floor, Concert Hall, 444 Yonge St. Toronto.

7 p.m.

Yvan Baker, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Digital Government, will make an announcement about digital government. HackerYou, 483 Queen St. W., Toronto.