

Re: Facts Still Matter - Draft Pre-Release

From: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>
To: "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <rebecca.mackenzie@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 13 Jun 2017 19:25:42 -0400

Will do

A. Forgione
(647)-205-3475

From: Bevan, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 7:25 PM
To: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO); MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)
Subject: Re: Facts Still Matter - Draft Pre-Release

Great. Can you add the shoves in the ground piece pls

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 5:22 PM
To: Bevan, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO); MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)
Subject: Facts Still Matter - Draft Pre-Release

Would send this tmrw before his speech.

Good Morning,

Patrick Brown is speaking to the Burlington Chamber of Commerce later today, and he's expected to once again try to be all things to all people. Unfortunately for his audience, that means misleading them on a number of different claims, while trying to deflect from the fact that he opposes a \$ 15 minimum wage phased in over the next 18 months.

Like every other speech he does, Patrick Brown will probably forget that Facts Still Matter in Ontario.

He'll probably claim: *"we're the only party that's going to cut red tape and get hydro rates under control"*

Fact: Our government won a golden scissors award for cutting red tape.

(Source: <https://twitter.com/cfibON/status/850408338441609217>)

Fact: The PC's have refused to release any plan on hydro even after saying it would be coming out shortly.

(Source: <https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/04/03/brown-nixes-plan-for-tory-hydro-policy-on-rates-this-year.html>)

He'll probably claim: *"Ontario is no longer a leader when it comes to job creation"*

Fact: In the last 12 months Ontario created over 85,000 net new jobs, and the unemployment rate has been lower than Canada's national average for over 2 years.

(Source: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start>)

He'll probably claim: *"Ontario's economy is falling behind"*

Fact: Ontario has led the G7 in economic growth for the past 3 years.

He'll probably claim: *"Ontario has become an unaffordable place to do business"*

Fact: Site Selection—a magazine of corporate expansion and economic development found that Ontario is the most competitive province in Canada. They gave their Canadian Competitiveness Award to the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Growth.

(Source: <http://siteselection.com/press/releases/160901-site-selection-canada-and-utilities-rankings.html>)

He'll probably claim: *"That speaks to the affordability crisis we have...you need the cost of government to be affordable"*

Fact: In Mercer's 2016 Cost of Living survey and in KPMG's 2016 business cost rankings they found that major Canadian Cities including many in Ontario were much more affordable places to live and do business than most major American cities.

(Source: <https://www.mercer.ca/en/newsroom/2016-cost-of-living.html> ,
<https://www.competitivealternatives.com/cities/necc.aspx>)

He'll probably claim: *"we're the ones that put forward a housing plan on the needs to create more supply"*

Fact: Patrick Brown's proposal contains no actual measures to lower housing prices or increase supply. It simply just states lofty goals or the need to have conversations.

(Source: <http://www.ontariopc.com/News/Details/Ontario-PCs-outline-recommendations-to-address-housing-crisis>)

He'll probably claim: *"Cap and trade...is a \$1.9 B / year revenue grab for the government."*

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'll probably claim: *"We don't need to settle to be a province that has our credit downgraded"*

Fact: Moody's upgraded Ontario's credit outlook. The other major rating agencies affirmed Ontario's credit rating this year.

(Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/moodys-ontario-credit-rating-stable-1.3554371> , <http://www.ofina.on.ca/ir/rating.htm>)

He'll probably claim: *"there is relief that's targeted to residential users that will be temporary"*

Fact: This relief is permanent – unless Patrick Brown is hinting he'd scrap our 25% cut and other support programs for low-income Ontarians.

(Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/programs/metromorning/kathleen-wynne-metro-morning-1.3759550>]

He'll probably claim: *"the belated hydro relief doesn't...do anything for business"*

Fact: Wrong. Small businesses across the province, like J'Adore Fine Cheese & Chocolate in Brown's own backyard in Barrie for example, will benefit from the 25% cut through our Fair Hydro Plan. We also expanded the Industrial Conservation Initiative to make even more medium to large businesses eligible for savings up to 1/3 off their bills. The Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program provides an approx. 25% decrease for eligible large northern industrials. The Industrial Electricity Incentive program provides further support. We're also eliminating the Debt Retirement Charge for commercial, industrial and all other electricity users next spring.

(Source: <http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/incentives-program-for-business>,
<http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/northern-development/business-support/northern-industrial-electricity-rate-program>.)