

Transcript: Premier Wynne Two Rivers Scrum (Aug 16)

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*as requested by Gurvinder Singh

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PREMIER WYNNE TWO RIVERS SCRUM

Date: August 16, 2017
Length: 6:24 minutes
Speaker(s): Premier Kathleen Wynne;

already in progress

PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE: I just think that this is [Inaudible], imaginative community collaboration that is – it is obviously good for the economy; creating jobs. But it is also wonderful [Inaudible]. It needed to [Inaudible].

Q: So earlier today you were in Almonte as well talking to local businesses up there as well.

PREMIER WYNNE: Yeah.

Q: And so....

PREMIER WYNNE: And buying chocolate.

Q: Yeah and it was interesting because it was Nicaraguan components there in the chocolate. And now you are looking more at [Inaudible] local [Inaudible] stuff. You had been the agricultural minister previously about three years ago.

PREMIER WYNNE: Yeah.

Q: I would say three years ago? And during you're here [Inaudible] local businesses and rural areas. Are there any lessons that local people, that rural people are doing that you think the people in the big cities Toronto and Ottawa could learn from?

PREMIER WYNNE: Well I think that [Inaudible] that I am seeing on this trip in particular but that I have seen before is the collaborative spirit. So I think what happens often in smaller communities and rural communities are out of necessity and also out of an understanding of how working together can actually create better synergy and more efficiency. We see more collaboration in some of the rural communities. So I think that is a fundamental lesson. This morning for example, I was – where was I? I was in the [Inaudible] seniors' home which is in Arnprior.

Q: I will help you with that.

PREMIER WYNNE: Yes, [Inaudible] and again that is a perfect example of a community coming together and collaborating to create a health hub and continue to care for seniors. So whether we are talking about food and agriculture or whether we are talking about community services or whether we are talking about health care, [Inaudible] working together and sharing not just ideas but sharing equipment, sharing space that [Inaudible] and it resolves challenging problems for communities.

Q: Last question here, Mayor [Inaudible] met you here at the [Inaudible] dock.

PREMIER WYNNE: Yes.

Q: As mentioned about the [Inaudible] you were at the [Inaudible] centre and I know you were talking about rebates and hydro. [Inaudible]. Is there anything the government can do to help target specific hydro relief for places like [Inaudible] that are being—

PREMIER WYNNE: So I don't know—[Inaudible]. We're just talking about hydro [Inaudible] and I'm not sure, not sure where you sit on the [Inaudible]. [Inaudible] we did do was to lower the threshold for the industrial conservation [Inaudible]--

Q: We actually—we're in a, I mean Joe and Tracy might be able to answer better than me because they're actually—

[Indiscernible Speakers]

Q: [Inaudible] of the challenges that the way that they've worked around it is they [Inaudible]--

PREMIER WYNNE: [Inaudible]--

Q: Yeah, they come and do their own readings [Inaudible]--

PREMIER WYNNE: Okay well fair enough. I mean we, as you know, we have lower electricity rates for residential users. We've further - so that 25-per-cent - we've further lowered them for people in northern, northern rural communities and, as I say, we did lower the threshold for some of the business programs. [Inaudible] We're going to continue to work with businesses across the province. I know that the—I know that the Minister of Energy is; he's concerned about that middle band of businesses that don't qualify for the residential or the industrial. So we're going to keep working on it.

Q: Okay.

PREMIER WYNNE: Okay?

[Indiscernible Speakers]

PREMIER WYNNE: Thank you very much.

Q: Hi. I know your [Inaudible]. What do you see as the role of your government in encouraging municipalities and their non-profits to continue to grow [Inaudible]--?

PREMIER WYNNE: Well I think, you know, as we walked around and talked about all the different program that [Inaudible] whether it's through Trillium or whether it's through OMAFRA and I think what we need to do as government is to focus [Inaudible] the ideas that communities have and make sure that as we develop programs we actually target them at [Inaudible] can grow and use local [Inaudible]. So, you know, it seems like it works pretty well here—

Q: It's definitely been instrumental in our success—

PREMIER WYNNE: Yeah. So, you know, is there more we can do? Sure. And we'll take lessons from

[Inaudible]

Q: Okay. Can [Inaudible] count on [Inaudible] at least to continue or a further commitment from the provincial government, even beyond the coming [Inaudible] got any ideas about--?

PREMIER WYNNE: I'm planning to be the premier—

[Laughter]

PREMIER WYNNE: That's my plan, but you know all I can say is that our government believes in supporting [Inaudible]. Thanks so much for coming. Thank you.