

Top Issues for February 17, 2017

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Date: Fri, 17 Feb 2017 09:00:11 -0500
Attachments: 2017.02.17.docx (71.97 kB)

Top Issues

February 17, 2017

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TOP ISSUES

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FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

CALENDAR

February 17, 2017

NDP Leader Horwath to hold a press conference

10:00 a.m. / Toronto: Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath holds a press conference to discuss the upcoming legislative session and the priorities of the New Democratic caucus. (Media Studio, Queen's Park)

Premier Wynne to tour the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

3:00 p.m. / Toronto: Premier Kathleen Wynne tours the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. (150 Kilgour Road)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Ontario to Resume Contract Negotiations with Doctors

☐ Premier Kathleen Wynne announced Thursday the Ontario government will soon restart negotiations with the province's doctors, who have been without a physician services agreement for three years. Arbitration will be the first order of business in the negotiations.

☐ "The (health) minister and I have discussed the next steps and, as a show of good faith and to demonstrate our sincere commitment to trying to reach a positive outcome in these renewed negotiations, our government will not make any unilateral adjustments to physician compensation or accountabilities while discussions are taking place," Premier Wynne said in a statement Thursday.

☐ In 2015, the government imposed fee cuts for some services and had previously threatened to act on its own again if it could not reach an agreement with the Ontario Medical Association (OMA).

☐ Last summer, doctors voted down a proposal - endorsed by the OMA - that would have increased the \$12-billion physician services budget by more than \$1 billion, but set out \$200 million in certain fees. Some doctors were upset that not only had the association endorsed that deal, it had also been in talks with the government without doctors' knowledge.

☐ The OMA has been threatening to launch unspecified job action against the government, but it is not clear what will happen now that talks are back on. A spokesperson for the OMA declined to answer questions about job action.

☐ Thursday's announcement follows news from the OMA that it had established a new negotiating committee, 10 days after its executive committee resigned after a vote of non-confidence at an OMA meeting. Premier Wynne said the government will also establish a new negotiating team.

☐ Nadia Alam, one of the 25 OMA council members who called for the recent special meeting, said Thursday that the resumption of talks is a "step in the right direction" but that doctors are "incredibly wary" of the government's intentions after being stung in the past.

Newspapers: "Ontario to restart stalled negotiations with doctors," Toronto Star, The Canadian Press, A14
"Ontario, doctors resume talks," The Globe and Mail, Kelly Grant, A12

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Column: Help Madi, Premier!

☐ Toronto Sun columnist, Mike Strobel, is accusing the Ontario Liberal government of having “effed up” priorities.

☐ Strobel argues that while Premier Kathleen Wynne recklessly spends taxpayer dollars on windmills, gas plants, hydro bonuses and expert panels, children, such as Madison “Madi” Ambos, have been waiting months for OHIP to approve their life-changing surgery.

☐ Specifically, Ambos has been waiting since December for OHIP to approve her out-of-province selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) surgery to help relieve spasticity, a characteristic of cerebral palsy (CP). The surgery is set to cost \$45,000, but with other expenses considered, will total nearly \$140,000.

☐ According to Ambos’ mother, Katherine Gregoire, the family is still awaiting OHIP’s approval. “If it were an experimental procedure, I could understand why things are so slow...But SDR is actually listed on the ministry website. That’s what’s so frustrating and disheartening. It just takes so long. It seems so backward,” she said.

☐ Strobel writes that because of the lack of assurance from OHIP, the family has been forced to raise the money themselves.

☐ “[We hope] Madi walks. The province talks. There’s talk of slashing red tape. There’s talk of performing SDR surgery in Toronto. There’s talk of OHIP protocols. Talk, talk, talk,” writes Strobel. “Maybe Queen’s Park will come through for these kids.”

Newspapers: “Help Madi, premier!,” Toronto Sun, Mike Strobel, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Ontario Power Generation to Seek Rate Increases

☐ Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is set to ask the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for funding for the refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Power Plant.

☐ On February 27, OPG will go before the OEB to ask for a series of rate increases to help fund the \$12.8 billion refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Power Plant.

☐ As reported by CFTO, Darlington provides Ontario with 20 percent of all the electricity it uses.

☐ In its application, the OPG is proposing an average increase of \$1.05 a month more annually over the next year. By 2021, the increase would reach \$5.25. In total, this would mean \$63 more per year for the average household, notes CFTO.

☐ If approved, the hike will represent a 69 percent increase in the amount of money OPG is paid for nuclear over the five years, notes the news outlet.

☐ OPG’s application comes as Premier Kathleen Wynne looks to reduce hydro bills by another eight to 12 percent.

☐ It is also noted that Darlington is expected to create an estimated 25,000 jobs, as well as at least \$5 billion in economic spinoff.

Newspapers: None

Television: CFTO – 6:00 PM (5)

Radio: None

Issue: Girl Wrongfully Taken from Mother After False Motherisk Drug Test

☐ The Toronto Star reports that a 10-year-old girl has been left in “legal limbo” for five years after she was “wrongly apprehended” from her mother who had failed the Hospital for Sick Children’s Motherisk drug test.

☐ The girl, born in 2007, was deemed to be in need of protection by children’s aid in 2012 because of concerns that included the mother’s history of drug abuse, admitted marijuana use and involvement in prostitution, incidents of domestic violence between the parents and the father’s recovery from opioid addiction.

☐ The girl was allowed to stay with her mother under the supervision of children’s aid. However, in fall 2012, the girl was taken from the mother after she failed two Sick Kids’ Motherisk drug tests, which came back positive for cocaine. Since then, the Motherisk test was shut down in April 2015 after a provincial probe found it continuously delivered false results.

☐ The daughter has since been put into foster care and is being considered for adoption by her foster mother, so long as she has no contact with her biological parents.

☐ The incident not only revealed flaws with the Motherisk test, but also later revealed flaws with Ontario’s child-welfare system.

☐ The lawyers that handled the case, which lasted for more than three years, have been criticized for not calling for the mother to take alternative drug tests while knowing about the controversy over the reliability of the Motherisk test.

☐ The mother said that despite her repeated claims the test results were wrong, her lawyer “ignored those assertions and took no steps whatsoever to bring any motion before the court, or to get competing drug tests to challenge the Motherisk drug tests.”

☐ In December 2015, the judge handling the mother’s trial ruled that the child would become a Crown ward and have no access to the mother. The judge noted that the mother should have “sought a screen from a different laboratory” to challenge the Motherisk findings.

☐ However, shortly after the judge’s ruling, Justice Susan Lang submitted a report to the attorney general, which said the Motherisk lab fell “woefully short of internationally recognized forensic standards” and operated without sufficient oversight. She also said it produced results that were “inadequate” and “unreliable” for use in child custody cases, which has “serious implications for the fairness of those proceedings.”

☐ The mother later applied for judicial review of the trial results, claiming that the process lacked transparency and denied parents the chance to participate, but her application was rejected.

☐ Justice Grant A. Campbell, the judge who has since taken over the case, recently apologized to the mother for the previous trial where the parents were “ignored, demeaned and disbelieved” while their child was shuffled between placements.

☐ A hearing that will include the parents, the child and the foster mother is set to take place in May in order to work out a permanent living situation for the girl.

Newspapers: "A family in tatters," The Toronto Star, Rachel Mendleson, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Labour Tribunal Resists Calls to Release Documents

☐ In a front page story, the Toronto Star reports the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) is resisting calls to release documents related to its public hearings - even though the public hearings can be reported by the media.

☐ In contrast, the Toronto Star notes documents filed as part of a court proceeding, including those containing personal information, are presumptively public and can easily be accessed the same day at the courthouse.

☐ At issue is the Toronto Star's request in 2014 to review documents relating to a dispute between the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) and its Local 183 and whether the latter should have been placed under trusteeship due to alleged improprieties. Paul Cavalluzzo, lawyer for LIUNA and Local 183, called the allegations are "spurious."

☐ While Toronto Star reporters were permitted to access several boxes of documents at the OLRB offices, and to make copies of certain materials, the board refused requests for additional documents, and now demands that the Star return the copies of documents obtained through the freedom of information request.

☐ In a letter to the Star, the board's lawyer, Leonard Marvy, wrote that it was the head of the board's view that "the records... may have been released in error and that the board had inadvertently disclosed personal information that is presumed to constitute an unjustified invasion of personal privacy."

☐ Marvy requested that the Star "return and not use any of the information released until this has been resolved." The Star has not disseminated any of the information obtained from the documents, but is also refusing to return them, noting that "the documents, which were obtained from the board, are submissions filed as part of public labour board hearings."

☐ The OLRB has informed the province's Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of the release of the documents to the Star, contending that it was a privacy breach. An IPC inquiry was put on hold pending the outcome of the Star's appeal to the IPC of the labour board's demand for return of the documents.

☐ Even though the tribunal system was created to take cases out of the overcrowded court system, and into a more efficient process, a Star editorial noted last week that "they depart dramatically from open court rules when it comes to providing records."

☐ In 2015, the Toronto Star launched a broader legal challenge against secrecy in Ontario's tribunals, which rule on everything from landlord and tenant disputes to human rights abuses to environmental violations.

Newspapers: "Labour tribunal resists calls to release information," Toronto Star, Jacques Gallant, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Provincial Funding Crucial for Ottawa's LRT Plan

☐ The Ottawa Citizen has learned that the cost of Stage 2 of the city's light rail transit expansion has increased from \$2.9-billion to \$3.6-billion, to include previously unbudgeted infrastructure work. It will also force the O-Train Trillium Line to shut down for at least 16 months.

☐ The Stage 2 report, which will be formally released at city hall on Friday, indicates the rail expansion will be completed in three stages. The city's finance and economic development committee will debate and vote on the plan on February 24, then a council vote on March 8 would kick-start the procurement process.

☐ However, the city is still waiting to hear from the federal government about funding the Stage 2 blueprint. The province has signalled its commitment to pay for one-third of the city's base Stage 2 plan, plus half the cost of the connections to the airport and Trim Road.

☐ Ottawa Citizen columnist David Reevely says the City of Ottawa is looking to get the provincial government to sign up to Ottawa's rail plan before the 2018 election. While the premier has promised the province will provide the \$1-billion-plus that the city is counting on, the promise is not legal until there is minister's signature on a contribution agreement.

☐ "The provincial election is more than a year away yet, but there's a meaningful chance that after that vote, the city will be dealing with Premier Patrick Brown, whose commitment to the Liberals' \$160-billion infrastructure program certainly cannot be assumed," Reevely notes.

☐ In light of the cost increase, Reevely notes the provincial gas tax Premier Wynne has promised to cities across the province is a big relief for city planners, "assuming it happens."

Newspapers: "Provincial funding crucial to pay for pricey rail plan," The Ottawa Citizen, David Reevely, A3
"LRT Phase 2 bundle spikes to \$3.6B," The Ottawa Citizen, Matthew Pearson and Jon Willing, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: London Police Introduces New Carding Policy

☐ Critics are slamming the London Police Services Board new policy on carding, which was unveiled on Thursday.

☐ Under the policy, which is to comply with provincial rules that took effect on January 1, police will be required to give a receipt to anyone they stop. However, that receipt will not include a reason for the interaction but instead, will have information about how to file a freedom-of-information (FOI) request to get that reason.

☐ Should someone choose to file an FOI request, police say they will waive the request fee and expedite the process.

☐ However, not everyone who files an FOI request will learn why there were stopped. "There are exceptions," said Chief John Pare.

☐ In response, community activist Mojdeh Cox blasted the new policy. "This isn't

building bridge,” she said. “This is ... imposing more bureaucracy and red tape ... What they’re really saying here is, we’re not willing to compromise.” Cox added that Londoners should be able to know on the spot why they have been chosen to be questioned and that resorting to FOI requests is nothing new. “That’s really no different from what we have the rights to do already,” she said.

When asked about the policy, London lawyer Susan Toth, a member of the community group that helped draft the policy, said that including the reason for the stop on the receipt was a major sticking point during the two-month consultation. Toth added that Pare had rejected demands from police service board members to contain a reason for the top on the receipt and ultimately, the committee made the compromise after hearing privacy concerns. “It’s the best possible resolution,” she said.

Newspapers: “Card now, explain later,” London Free Press, Dale Carruthers and Dan Brown, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Toronto Calling for More Provincial, Federal Funding

Toronto Mayor John Tory is calling on the provincial and federal government to increase funding for social housing.

Tory’s comments were made while making a major funding announcement for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) in Etobicoke on Thursday. They also come a day after city council passed its 2017 budget.

According to Tory, the provincial legislation that governs Toronto needs to be “re-think[ed]” in light of Premier Kathleen Wynne’s rejection of his road toll plan. He called on the province to have the “courage” to give Toronto more control over its future.

“There was a political risk involved in that [toll plan,]” said Tory. “But I understand that the political risk for me was far surpassed by the need to actually be honest with people and get on with making these investments and make sure they understand they’re not free.” He added that Toronto is “being held hostage ... by other governments for reasons best known to them.”

This is the second time this week that Tory has used a public event to challenge the province to increase funding and independence, the paper notes. In a speech on Tuesday, Tory called on the federal government to insist on provincial contributions to any new infrastructure funding. He also called, once again, for the province to contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the Gardiner and the Don Valley Parkway.

Newspapers: “City ‘held in handcuffs’ Tory blasts province, feds over funding,” Toronto Sun, Shawn Jeffords, A5

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Auditor General Insists Pension Plan Surpluses Cannot Count as Assets

The provincial government says it will take the advice of accounting experts who

concluded Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk miscalculated when she claimed the government could not count \$10.7 billion of taxpayer-funded pension surpluses as assets - despite Lysyk's insistence that the pension plans should not be booked as assets.

☐ On Monday, a panel of four government-appointed outside accounting experts led by Tricia O'Malley, Chair of the Canadian Actuarial Standards Oversight Council, ruled the funds are indeed a public asset.

☐ "Many government assets are not accessible. A road is an asset to a government because it allows it to provide public services of transportation, but you can't move a road or you can't sell a road unless it's a toll road, but it's still an asset," the panel concluded.

☐ However, Lysyk said she would only issue a "clean audit opinion" of the province's books this year if she receives proof "in writing" from the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union and the Ontario Teachers' union that they agree with counting the surpluses as a public asset for accounting purposes.

☐ "Show me the letter that says you can use that pension money with permission - with an agreement," said Lysyk. "Until that happens, the bottom line is this office can't give its stamp of approval on this particular issue."

☐ There has been no suggestion the government intends to raid the pension funds, which would be illegal. The issue is whether the pension surplus can be counted as an asset. The dispute is worth the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to the province's budget line this year and could be the difference between balancing the books or remaining in deficit.

☐ In response to Lysyk's demand for permission from the unions, Treasury Board President Liz Sandals said the panel "concluded that the government does not need a letter from either of the unions because the joint pension agreements spell out how the surplus will be dealt with."

☐ The spat means the auditor general will likely issue a "qualified audit opinion" of the government's books instead of a "clean audit opinion" later this year. That is essentially the accounting equivalent of an asterisk in the sporting record books for disputed achievements because Lysyk's audit opinion is unlikely to affect the government's credit rating.

Newspapers: "Auditor demands proof on pensions," Toronto Star, Robert Benzie, A10

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Minister Asks Local Utilities to Stop Winter Electricity Disconnections

☐ Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has asked local utilities to stop disconnecting residential customers who cannot pay their electricity bills during the winter. The move came as opposition parties urged him to order a halt on winter disconnections until a proposed bill banning them can be passed after MPPs return from their Christmas recess next week.

☐ "At no point, under any circumstances, should a customer be put at risk over their electricity bill," Minister Thibeault wrote in a letter to utilities Thursday. "All LDCs (local distribution companies) should commit to this high standard." Some northern and rural residents who lose hydro also end up without water because they use electric pumps to raise it from wells.

☐ In December, Hydro One announced it would no longer do winter disconnections and promised to reconnect 1,400 customers. Officials have said some utilities in the province have

quietly adopted informal policies of not disconnecting customers for nonpayment over the winter. Others put limits on how much electricity customers in arrears can use.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said the minister's letter "falls far short of the actions Ontarians expect and deserve" and joined the Progressive Conservatives in accusing him of playing "political games."

The PCs have called on the government to break out part of an omnibus bill that deals with electricity disconnections and pass it as a separate piece of legislation, but the government says that would take longer. Instead, the minister has written the PC and NDP to ask them to help the government quickly pass the omnibus bill.

About 60,000 customers had their electricity disconnected for nonpayment last year. The Ontario Energy Board does not yet have statistics for this winter.

Minister Thibeault and Premier Kathleen Wynne have also promised more relief on high electricity prices in the coming weeks, in addition to instant rebates on the 8-per-cent provincial portion of the HST.

Newspapers: "Stop shutting off utilities," Toronto Star, Rob Ferguson, A10
"Energy minister asks hydro firms to keep the heat on," National Post, The Canadian Press, A7
"Liberals: Stop cutting off electricity," The Toronto Sun, The Canadian Press, A4

Television: Global - 5:30 PM (12-13)

Radio: None

Issue: Markham City Council Rejects Foreign Buyers' Tax

This week, Markham City Council voted down a motion calling on the provincial government to introduce a foreign buyers' tax.

The motion was originally put forward by Councillor Karen Rea, who asked council to put in a request to the province to implement a foreign buyers' tax similar to that in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In her reasoning, Rea cited the difficulty young residents face in buying a house when prices have risen so dramatically in the past couple of years. She also pointed to the "Red warning" issued by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. about overvaluation in some Canadian cities.

However, the motion was rejected eight to four. Included in those who voted against the motion is Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, who denied claims that foreign buyers are purchasing properties and leaving them vacant. "If there are five to 10 houses empty on a street, show me where that street is. I haven't seen that scenario," said Scarpitti.

Scarpitti acknowledged the pressure on prices in Markham has made it hard for young people and families to get into the market, but said that not a lot of new subdivisions have been built because of intensification goals and the onerous approvals process for development. Because of those factors, said Scarpitti, more buyers are tearing down small, older houses and replacing them with large ones in established subdivisions. Scarpitti said he would like to see improved infrastructure and an easier process for getting new neighbourhoods approved.

When the motion first appeared on Markham City Council's agenda for this week, both the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) sent a joint open letter to Scarpitti, urging Markham to abandon the idea. Both organizations have rejected

any notion of a foreign buyers' tax in Ontario.

☐ When asked about how he felt about the motion being denied, CEO of the OREA, Tim Hudak, said he was "happy," and said that the majority of home buyers from foreign countries are not speculators but immigrants looking to buy a family home. Hudak added that immigrants are essential to the province's economic success and described any direct taxes targeting them as discriminatory. "Scapegoating foreigners as the reason for increasing home prices is not based on sound public policy or reliable data. It's based in the cheap politics of division," said Hudak. "The core issue is about supply."

Newspapers: "A suburban defeat for a foreign buyers' tax," The Globe and Mail, Carolyn Ireland, G2

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Judge Accused of Contributing to "Culture of Complacency"

☐ Ontario Court Justice Rick Libman has been rebuked by the Ontario Superior Court for contributing to the "culture of complacency" within Canada's criminal-justice system.

☐ This comes after Justice Libman broke for the day at 4PM, two days in a row, while two witnesses were waiting in the hallway to testify, the paper notes. Eventually, the two testified for roughly 30 minutes – at a cost of two months and five days of delay in finding another court date when the prosecution and defence lawyers were available.

☐ Criticism of Libman comes in a published decision by Justice Michael Code of the Ontario Superior Court. Justice Code had been asked for a stay of proceedings over unreasonable delay by two men under new rules set by the Supreme Court of Canada last July, where it established time limits from the laying of a charge to the completion of a trial in both provincial and superior court.

☐ Since that ruling, criminal defence lawyers have applied to have more than 800 cases thrown out of Canadian courts over delay, the paper notes.

☐ In his ruling last month, Justice Code called the two-month delay "unnecessary." "In my view, it is not acceptable to adjourn court at 4 PM on two consecutive days when brief witnesses have been waiting out in the court hallways and are available to testify," said Justice Code. "The approach taken by the Court during this period of delay is emblematic of the 'culture of complacency.'"

☐ Although Justice Code did not stay the charges against the men, but instead, subtracted five months for delay caused by the defence and four months for exceptional circumstances.

☐ In response to Justice Code's criticism of Justice Libman, Anthony Moustacalis, president of the Criminal Lawyers' Association said that higher-court judges should be "careful." "They can't have a dialogue to find out what happened or why. There may be reasons that are not on record," he said.

☐ Justice Libman is not the first to be accused of complacency toward delay, the paper notes. Last September, the Ontario Court of Appeal called Crown attorney Dallas Mack's conduct of the trial of George Kenny "a poster child for the culture of complacency towards delay."

Newspapers: "Judge censured for short sitting hours, adding to delays," The Globe and Mail, Sean Fine, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: CEO of Colleges Ontario Says Ontario Colleges Chronically Underfunded

☐ A Windsor Star column by Linda Franklin, CEO of Colleges Ontario, argues that a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers Canada report shows problems around the sustainability of higher education and that Ontario's colleges might not be producing the "highly skilled workforce" that is needed in cities such as Windsor.

☐ Franklin says one of the reasons for the lack of graduates with skills suitable for the workforce is a decline in government funding. She says, "For years, the government's operating funding for college education ... has decreased, while demands on colleges have increased exponentially."

☐ She says that the decrease in funding has left colleges with a shortfall of about \$900 million over the past 10 years.

☐ The PwC report shows that the shortfalls will only get worse in the coming year, Franklin says, with colleges facing a deficit of \$400 million a year by 2024-25 and an accumulated deficit of more than \$1.9 billion by that time.

☐ While Franklin acknowledges that the Ontario government has made proposal to produce a more highly skilled workforce, such as modernizing apprenticeship, she argues that the province needs to do more.

☐ She says as "technological marvels transform the economy, more and more labour is being automated, which means effective employees must provide an added value that comes from a strong education."

☐ In addition to Franklin's column, the Barrie Examiner also reports problems for its Georgian College caused by a lack of funding.

☐ Georgian College has had to lay off some of its administrators, reassign its teaching faculty, and will sell its Kempenfelt Conference Centre to help make up an \$8.6-million shortfall this year on its now-balanced \$195-million budget.

☐ MaryLynn West-Moynes, Georgian's president and CEO, said that the school has "made good decisions to sustain our future. There are a number of moving parts in this, but one of the things that we wanted to do in this structure change was flatten our organization."

☐ Georgian College says its budget problems have been enhanced by losing the northern rural grant, the declining demographics of youths aged 18 to 24 in the area, and Laurentian University's withdrawal from the Barrie campus last year.

Newspapers: "Ontario colleges chronically underfunded," The Windsor Star, Linda Franklin, A6
"Job cuts at Georgian College," The Barrie Examiner, Bob Burton, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

February 17, 2017

TORONTO STAR

- * Labour tribunal fighting to keep documents secret
- * A family in tatters (with photo)
- * 'I'm not ranting and raving,' Trump rants in wild presser (with photo)

TORONTO SUN

- * What about Madi? (with photo)
- * Wynne's popularity 'abysmal' (with photo)

GLOBE AND MAIL

- * Quebec reviewing dismissed sex assaults
- * Unscripted Trump re-emerges, defending first month in office (with photo)
- * Future free-trade pacts in peril if CETA doesn't work, PM warns
- * Judge censured for short sitting hours, adding to delays

NATIONAL POST

- * Three people killed for nothing
- * My 'lucky escape' after deadly mosque clash (with photo)
- * Pakistani police name Canadian as terrorist
- * Trump rails against critics
- * Save the Arctic with trillion-dollar ice machines

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

Stations surveyed: Global, CFTO, City TV, CJOH, CHCH, CFPL

Disclaimer

February 16, 2017

GLOBAL – 5:30 PM (Toronto)

- 1) An arrest has been made after a woman was killed during an assault inside an apartment building in East York.
- 2) Some residents displaced by the six-alarm fire at Yonge and St. Clair on Tuesday are continuing to wait to return to their homes. There was a brief flare up the fire today.
- 3) Parents are protesting the potential closure of a popular Catholic elementary school in Vaughan.
- 4) U.S. President Donald Trump raised more allegations against the media during his first solo news conference since taking office.
- 5) A Washington University study has found it may be possible to predict the likelihood of autism in young children before they begin showing symptoms.
- 6) Weather.

- 7) A jury has found Douglas Garland guilty of killing a Calgary couple and their grandson.
- 8) Time is running out to claim a Lotto 649 prize worth \$1 million because unclaimed tickets expire 365 days after purchase.
- 9) An update for Pokémon Go is expected to introduce 80 new Pokémon and customization options.
- 10) Tennis star Eugenie Bouchard has fulfilled a bet she made with a college student on Twitter.
- 12) A local distribution company has agreed to end the practice of winter electricity disconnections after receiving a letter from Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault.
- 13) Global News interviews Energy Minister Thibeault about his decision and timing to send letters to local distribution companies.
- 17) Global News continues its report about a Toronto woman with a guide dog who was denied a ride by an Uber driver. Toronto police have rejected her complaints by saying it is not within their purview.

GLOBAL – 6:30 PM (National)

- 1) The man accused of a Calgary couple and their 5-year-old grandson has been found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder.
- 2) U.S. President Donald Trump criticized the media and strongly defended his administration during a 77-minute press conference this afternoon.
- 3) Global News investigates the impact of President Trump's political rhetoric on Russia and global stability.
- 4) Global News replays President Trump's press conference comments about the mainstream media being dishonest.
- 5) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the European Parliament today. He called on them to convince citizens on the importance of CETA.
- 6) A Liberal MP's nonbinding motion that condemns Islamophobia has prompted an intense debate in Ottawa.
- 7) Canada's Transport Minister has changed his stance on administering random drug and alcohol tests on pilots in Canada.
- 8) A new report has found Canada is at the bottom of a list of 11 developed countries for wait times to see a family doctor or specialist.
- 9) A recycling centre employee in Barrie has recovered \$100,000 hidden inside an old TV by a 68-year-old man 30 years ago.
- 10) Global News interviews Atlantic Canadians about how they have been coping with three major winter storms.

CFTO – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

- 1) A 36-year-old woman was found murdered in Toronto and a 51-year-old man was arrested by police.

- 2) Clean up of the area and investigations continue at the Yonge and St. Clair fire.
- 3) Parents protested against possible elementary school closures by the York Region Catholic School Board.
- 4) Weather.
- 5) Ontario Power Generation is in need of funds to refurbish the Darlington nuclear reactors. They are submitting an application to the Ontario Energy Board to for an increase in rates.
- 6) President Donald Trump lashed out at the media for calling him dishonest in a news conference.
- 7) Time Magazine featured President Donald Trump on a controversial front cover.
- 8) The cost and faults of TTC train delays are discussed.
- 9) The TTC has fired 73 employees as part of an investigation into the defrauding of its benefits provider.
- 10) Toronto councillors voted to keep \$2 million for street sweeping in the 2017 budget.

City TV – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

- 1) Toronto police have launched an investigation into the online sale of two decommissioned, pre-amalgamation Metropolitan Toronto Police badges on eBay.
- 2) York regional police have arrested a man suspected of shooting at a car that had a father and two children inside in King City.
- 3) A woman has been killed in an assault at an apartment building on Dawes Road near Victoria Park.
- 4) Residents of the Yonge and St. Clair area are continuing to assess the damage and recover after a six-alarm fire at a racquet club two days ago.
- 5) Earl Grey Senior Public School has announced a ban on cell phones in classrooms and hallways after teachers reported frequent distractions.
- 6) CityNews interviews University of Toronto Professor Steve Joordens about cell phone and internet addiction.
- 7) Toronto City Council has approved a \$10.5 billion budget for 2017. It includes a 2 per cent property tax increase and a levy for capital projects.
- 8) Mayor John Tory is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to provide more provincial funding for Toronto's infrastructure. He does not want property tax increases to be the only recourse.
- 9) U.S. President Donald Trump criticized the media for unjust reporting and defended his decisions in office during an afternoon press conference.
- 10) Tens of thousands of immigrants across the U.S. remained off the job to protest President Trump's crackdown on illegal and legal immigration.

CJOH – 6:00 PM (Ottawa)

- 1) A grade nine student's death in Ottawa is reminding the community of the dangers of drug use.

- 2) 12 people were arrested for allegedly dealing fentanyl-laced pills and other paraphernalia.
- 3) Counterfeit drugs are a growing issue in the city of Ottawa.
- 4) An Ottawa priest convicted of molestation a year ago has been sentenced to house arrest.
- 5) Weather.
- 6) The United Way has seen a major decrease in donations from government employees this year.
- 7) The cost and plans for Ottawa's next light rail will soon be released.
- 8) An arrest was made after a shooting in the Little Italy area.
- 9) Uber could soon be joined by another competitor in Ottawa
- 10) Ottawa's Public School Board will resume the debate on the future of Rideau High School.
- 11) The Ontario Power Generation will appear before the Ontario Energy Board to ask for a rate increase to help pay for refurbishing the Darlington nuclear reactors.

CHCH – 6:00 PM (Hamilton)

- 1) A Hamilton woman who was brutally attacked by her boyfriend last fall said she feels unsafe now that he has been released from jail.
- 2) Niagara police are looking for a dark-coloured car after a hit and run in Niagara Falls last night.
- 3) Halton police are investigating after a man was hit and seriously injured by a train last night.
- 4) An Oakville doctor is facing new charges for sexual assault.
- 5) A woman was approached by a man with a handgun while at an ATM this morning in Niagara Falls.
- 6) Police are still investigating the murder of a Milton resident who was killed in 2007.
- 7) Hamilton police seized fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine after executing a search warrant on Ottawa Street.
- 8) Barrie police say five people overdosed after taking heroin laced with fentanyl.
- 9) Toronto police say a 28-year-old man died after consuming heroin that they suspected was laced with fentanyl.
- 10) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the European Parliament today saying the new Canada-Europe trade deal is a model for others to follow.
- 28) Ford Canada says it will invest in its Oakville assembly plant and its Windsor engine plant.

CFPL – 6:00 PM (London)

- 1) The fiancée of a murder victim is speaking out after charges were stayed against an operations manager and correctional officer at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre.
- 2) One person is dead after a crash involving two tractor trailers on the 401 west of London.

3) London Mayor Matt Brown introduced Martin Heyward as the new city manager today. Heyward will be replacing former city manager Art Zuidema who was let go.

4) Weather.

5) London police have arrested one of the city's most wanted murderers.

6) Dozens of animal cruelty charges have been dropped in relation to the alleged dog fighting ring in Tilbury. Four of the original six people are still facing charges.

7) The London Police Services Board has approved a new policy for the collection of identifying information.

8) The Native Women's Association's Faceless Doll project is on display at the Fanshawe Siskin Gallery. The dolls each represent a missing and murdered aboriginal women case in Canada.

9) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told the European Parliament that the EU presents an unprecedented model for peaceful cooperation. He is the first sitting Canadian Prime Minister to address the body.

10) American President Donald Trump held a news conference this morning to talk about his relationship with Russia. President Trump also announced his pick for Labour Secretary.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

February 17, 2017

CBC Radio (Toronto)

1) A Mississauga mom is distraught over her son's homework that includes crystal meth ingredients. The Peel District School Board confirmed a teacher at Erin Mills Middle School handed out the instructions to some students as part of a drama class. The teacher has been suspended with pay while the school investigates.

2) A 51-year-old man has been charged with second-degree murder after a woman was killed in the city's east end yesterday morning.

3) York University students and staff are concerned about a Metrolinx proposal that would see GO trains bypass the York U stop once the Downsview Park Station is up and running by the end of the year.

4) The Special Investigations Unit is looking into an incident where suspects fled the police and then crashed.

5) Parkdale Community Legal Services is calling on the federal government to lifting the cap on privately sponsored Syrian refugees. MPP Cheri DiNovo says people in her riding would back that change. The federal government says it is not considering removing the cap because it is designed to prevent a backlog of sponsorship applications.