

MEDIA EVENT: OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS RESPOND TO THRONE SPEECH

September 12, 2016

Time / Location:

2:30 p.m. / Media Studio, Queen's Park

Speakers:

[PC Leader Patrick Brown](#) ; [NDP Leader Andrea Horwath](#)

Media Attendance:

Print – XX

TV – XX

Radio – XX

Media Outlets:

Leslie – CP; Benzie – Star; Morrow – Globe; Blizzard – Sun; Lamoureux- Radio Canada TV; Bliss – CTV; Carter—Global

PC LEADER PATRICK BROWN

Brown: (inaudible) energy critic and whip, John Yakabuski. This Throne Speech is too little, too late. It's simply a band aid solution for Liberal mistakes. Every failed policy decision the Wynne Liberals have made over the last 13 years have made life harder, more unaffordable for Ontarians.

[Speaking French] It's too little, too late. Every failed policy decision the Wynne Liberals have made over the last 13 years have made life harder, more unaffordable for Ontarians.

[Speaking English] No Throne Speech is going to change that. It shows how out of touch this government is when pressing the reset button means actually listening to what Ontarians and the opposition have been telling them for years. It has only taken them 13 years to listen. The throne speech recognizes the cost of electricity is now stretching family governments. Where was this government when Lindsay (inaudible) and her family in Sault Ste. Marie with were living off \$200 for food because their hydro bills were so astonishingly high. Lindsay and her husband have four children and one child with autism. And where was this government when the Ladouceur family from Perry Sound had to give Hydro One everything, including their son's education fund, but are still thousands of dollars behind on their sky-high hydro bill. Where was this government when the news came out that the number of Hydro One customers who are unable to pay their bills increased by 150% within a one-year period. It wasn't a crisis in May when former Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli said Ontario rates are and will remain competitive. It wasn't a crisis when the new Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said he was still not using the word crisis. But when this government loses a third consecutive byelection in a riding that was a Liberal fortress held for over 20 years, now it is a crisis. It is clear the problems of everyday Ontarians are never a problem until it is Kathleen Wynne's problem. Simply because they lost the Liberal-held stronghold of Scarborough-Rouge River, they realize it is now hurting the Liberal party.

[Speaking French] The only reason why the Premier has recognized the cost of hydro is a real problem, is because it started to affect the Liberal Party of Ontario.

[Speaking English] The Ontario P.C.s have called on the Liberal government to take HST off hydro bills for years. It is a bit rich coming from the government that introduced the HST burden on hydro rates. Now the Liberal government wants to take credit after Ontario families and businesses have been struggling with hydro rates for over a decade. We should be calling it the Raymond Cho hydro benefit, because if it were not for his victory in a Liberal stronghold less than two weeks ago, this government would still be ignoring the crisis. On January 1, the Wynne Liberals scrapped the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, which was a 10% rebate. And now they are replacing it with an 8% rebate, while claiming success. Only in

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Liberal Ontario is that a better solution for ratepayers. Let's be clear. Hydro rates are not going down. Today's speech from the throne does nothing to change the fact that, by government's own numbers, between 2013 and 2018, hydro rates will go up by 42%. And on November 1, they will go up again. So, even after today's announcement, bills will get more expensive, because of failed Liberal policies that will still be in place, will continue to drive rates up. And in 2018, when the government completes its mandate, you are going to see that rates have gone up at least a minimum of 34%. This is merely a band-aid solution. If the Wynne Liberals were serious about tackling the province's energy crisis, the government would have committed to stop signing contracts for energy we do not need and immediately halt further sales of the hydro one fire sale.

[Speaking French] If Premier Wynne was serious about the province's energy crisis, the Liberal government would have put an immediate end to sales of Hydro One, and stopped the signing contracts for energy we do not need.

[Speaking English] Premier Wynne keeps talking about how prorogation is a refocus of their priorities. But it's clear this is only a refocus on keeping the Liberals in power. Ontarians have had enough. They made it clear again and again, and in Scarborough-Rouge River. They want to see a government that takes real action on their priorities, and listens to the concerns of the people of Ontario. Not a tired, self-interested government who goes through the motions. It is clear that Ontarians will continue to feel the impact of Liberal scandal, waste and mismanagement every day. That people of Ontario deserve better. We will continue to hold the Wynne Liberal government to account on sky rocketing hydro rates that will only continue to rise, cuts to health care services and reduced patient care, and diminished job prospects. We will fight for affordability and responsible spending of tax-payer dollars. And we will hold the government to account on their promises. We noticed there was no mention of autism funding or demonstration schools in the government's priorities. The Ontario P.C. caucus will continue to hold this government to account to help children reach their full potential. Most importantly, we will continue to listen. We will continue to reach out to Ontarians so we can find sensible, pragmatic solutions to the issues facing our province. We will listen relentlessly as we work towards the reality of a better Ontario. Thank you. Merci beaucoup. I would be pleased to take any questions.

Q. Benzie: Speaking of Scarborough-Rouge River, The is the first time we've had a chance to talk to you since Ms. Jones here obtained your chief of staff's e-mails, that your chief of staff knew before the sex ed letter went out in Scarborough-Rouge River. And the party president said on CP24 that he knew that you had not-- that he knew the letter gone out. How is it that you were the only one in the office who didn't seem to know? Sounds like Doug Ford knew. Sounds like the chief of staff knew. The party president knew. Are you out of the loop or are you not telling us the whole truth on this thing?

No, I said it very clear on the radio shows and in interviews that I did-- that did not see the letter on Friday. That a mistake was made. I apologized. I acknowledged this. I assumed responsibility and I apologized. Where I stand on this matter is abundantly clear in the opinion piece I wrote.

Q. Unidentified: And you are saying your chief of staff sent this letter out with a very firm policy position on your behalf without your knowledge?

I did not see the letter. A mistake was made. I assumed responsibility. And I apologized. I made it clear where I stood in the opinion piece that I wrote.

Q. Unidentified: (inaudible) practice for someone in your office to make such policy decisions with your signature on them?

A mistake was made, and it's a mistake I hope never happens again.

Q. Leslie: You didn't see the letter, but did you know its contents before that letter was sent out?

I did not see the letter. I certainly was not comfortable with the contents.

Q. Leslie: Did you know the contents--

No, did I didn't see the letter so the contents that were

	described in the letter were not what I was comfortable with—
Q. Leslie: And then why was your-- you said you took to Twitter right away on Saturday to make your position clear, and your tweets on the Saturday said you stood behind the position in that letter and it was nothing new. So we are really unclear as to where you were on this and why you were muddying your own position on the sex ed policy.	I think my opinion piece makes my position abundantly clear. And anybody who wants to know my position on sex ed can read that opinion piece.
Q. Unidentified: How does your chief of staff not know your position then?	A mistake was made. I apologized for it. And assumed responsibility. Ultimately, the buck stops with me. I took responsibility and—and owned it.
Q. Unidentified: What does it say about your leadership? That this is going on in your office?	You know what? A mistake was made. Lessons are learned. Like I said, it is a mistake that I never want to see happen again.
Q. Unidentified: What is the lesson that you learned?	Well, ultimately, as a leader, the buck always stops and you are responsible for anything that happens on your team, anything that happens in your office and in the campaigns, and I assumed responsibility and said that I would be looking at our organization.
Q. Benzie: Patrick, I gather, though, that there are e-mails that predate the e-mail that Allison got hold of that suggests, shows some kind of discussions with Queenie Yu's campaign from the P.C. campaign. Or the P.C. Leaders Office. Did you know that a letter would go out but you didn't know exactly what it would say? So when you saw what it did say, you were like, oh, this is not what I meant. This is something you were planning, that you would do a mail drop on specific issue that was a hot button in the by-election-- but you—(inaudible) to Keith's point?	To Keith's point, when I saw that letter, I thought it was a mistake. And did my best to correct it.
Q. Benzie: You knew a letter was going to go out, though. You knew a letter was going to out, right?	What—I—when I read the letter, it did not reflect my opinion, and I went to correct it as quickly as possible. I assumed responsibility, and apologized, and made it very clear in the opinion piece where I stood.
Q. Morrow: (inaudible) did you defend the letter for days before you apologized?	Well I think you're making an assumption there.
Q. Morrow: So you defended it on the Friday, your office gave us a statement at the Globe defending the letter, then you went on Twitter over the weekend and defended it on Twitter, and then finally, on Monday, you came out with the Star piece that said, no, this isn't actually what I think.	I think if you read those social media comments you can—you know—
Q. Morrow: (inaudible) defending the letter?	Well, that's your assumption it defended the letter. I think if you re-read them again you may have a different interpretation.
Q. Unidentified: (inaudible) tweets. What do you think in those tweets says—was you disavowing the letter?	I said it in the tweets that I support sex education. But a mistake was made, and I think rarely in politics do you see politicians own up to the mistakes. Recognize them, and try

	to correct them as quickly as possible. And I did not wait for the byelection to be over. I sought an opportunity to write an opinion piece right away to make my opinion crystal clear. I assumed full responsibility, apologized, and set the record straight.
Q. Lamoureux: [Speaking French] Regarding hydro rates, do you not think it will help people to have a rebate of \$130 on average per year?	[Speaking French] The problem is that it is too little too late. Hydro rates (inaudible) increase again and again. Today's announcement changes none of this. In the next three years the costs of electricity will increase again, over 34%.
Q. Unidentified: What do you make of the taking off of HST of hydro bills?	Yes, it's a band-aid solution. First of all, it's—we're still going to see hydro rates go up. Anyone who's under any illusions we're going to see hydro prices go down because of this, would be sadly mistaken. By the government's own estimates, we're going to see hydro prices go up by another 42%. So in 2018, at a bare minimum, when the government's mandates finish, you're going to see the bills have gone up another 34%. And people are struggling. Struggling. We need a government that will actually change their failed energy policies, rather than temporary band-aid solutions. So if the government was really committed to dealing with this crisis, they would say we're not going to sign any more contracts for energy we do not need, we're not going to pursue this fire sale of Hydro One.
Q. Unidentified: You must be happy, though, that they've done what you asked?	You know, it's too little, it's too late. And that's why I call it the Raymond Cho hydro benefit, because it's only because of this byelection loss that they're trying to protect their own members, realising they're on the wrong side of Ontario families. What Ontario families want is they want policies to be changed. This is a small, small step. It's too little, too late. And I—I would say anyone hoping to see hydro relief in this Throne Speech isn't getting it. You're going to see hydro bills continue to go up 34% between now and—the period of 2013-2018. And to make matters worse, on November 1 they're going to go up again.
Q. Unidentified: Do you believe, fundamentally, that taxpayers should subsidize ratepayers?	I think the best thing we can do, rather than band-aid solutions or subsidies, would be to change the failed policies.
Q. Unidentified: My question, should taxpayers subsidize ratepayers?	Well, I—you know—I'm not comfortable with any temporary solutions. Do I think this is a good idea? Yeah, we've advocated before. There's a crisis in energy. And I think this is a little bit of relief, but it's not a long-term solution. So are we going to support temporary relief? Absolutely. Because it's a crisis. But it doesn't fix the problem.
Q. Leslie: Another issue in the Throne Speech, they committed what appears to be up to \$3.75 billion to create 100,000 daycare spaces over five years. Can we afford this? Do we have (inaudible)?	And there's no funding allocation for it. So I think any promise without funding to coincide with it can't be taken very seriously. And if you look at the history of promises this government has made and not honoured, I think the likelihood is this will simply be another failed Liberal promise.
Q. Unidentified: More and more government commitments coming out as they balance the budget or say they will, they are going to have more and more money to spend. Are you worried that come the Election Day in	Well, and I don't—I'm not convinced we're going to see a balanced budget. I still believe if you look through all the commitments the government is making, that the numbers don't add up and they're not going to have a balanced budget. Frankly, they're already using the Hydro One fire

2018, you're going to have to spend a few months running against all these new toys on Christmas morning?	sale money for temporary budget means that will still leave us in a structural deficit. And so I'm very concerned that there's no allocation for the promises being made.
Q. Unidentified: Promises extending beyond 2018. This child care policy wouldn't even start until 2017, talking about a five year program. Their mandate ends a year into that.	I think they're becoming very comfortable making promises they know they're not going to have to be accountable for. If you look at some of the infrastructure promises they're making, they start well past their mandate.
Q. Unidentified: (inaudible) sex ed letter?	We obviously don't comment on internal operations of my office or the party.
Q. Unidentified: You have been commenting on the internal operations. You said at first the letter was the result of the local campaign going too far. So why are you drawing the line now?	A mistake was made, but—and that's why I acknowledged it, but in terms of how I manage our team or office or the campaign's, those are internal to the party.
Q. Benzie: About the John (inaudible) seminar? Taking some action, they apologized to 140 participants and their parents are helpfully calling us and telling us that. Just wondering what's next? Are you going to abandon that leadership program that was so controversial?	I think it's fair to say you're not going to see future CLF trainings. I do believe it's important to train young people, but certainly I was disappointed with the stories I heard about that, and I can't see us hosting another training weekend under that umbrella.
Q. Unidentified: What did you think the sex ed letter was going to say? Before it went out.	You know, I'm—a mistake was made. And the letter I would like to see written was the one that I wrote in my op-ed. And any letter that would truly speak for my position, you can find in that op-ed. Because that op-ed speaks crystal clear to how I feel.
Q. Unidentified: During the leadership race you were really critical of the sex ed curriculum though, so when did that shift for you? You were very sceptical, very openly sceptical of it during the leadership race, and then that op-ed was very much an endorsement. So did you have a personal ah-ha moment that changed your mind?	You know, I actually think throughout the entire process I took a middle of the road approach, where I criticised the government on consultation but not the need to have sex education. If you'll read my—many of my public comments, whether it was in the article Allison wrote last year, I focused on the consultation aspect where I believe the government could have done a better job at engaging educators, parents, and experts in the consultation. But I do fundamentally believe we do have to have sex education in school to reflect the challenges we have in the world today. Thank you.
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NDP LEADER ANDREA HORWATH

[Speaking in French] We must act to improve the lives of people. [Speaking in English] Today's Throne Speech could have done so much more to give families immediate relief. To improve the quality of work in this province. To stop the sell-off of Hydro One. And to make sure that everyone has the healthcare that they can count on. And that our kids have the supports that they need to succeed in the classroom. After listening to the Throne Speech, I can tell you that New Democrats are gonna keep working for the real action that people need to see. We have to improve healthcare, but the Throne Speech said nothing about the crisis in healthcare today. This government is still refusing to stop the cuts and tackle overcrowding inside our hospitals. We need action to improve the quality of work for millions of people across the province. The fact is, too many people are struggling to find a good job. And when they do find good work, actually when they find any kind of work, unfortunately, often the pay is too low and it doesn't support their loved ones. We need real action to create good jobs in this province, and improve the quality of work for people. We have to make sure that every worker has decent benefits and predictable schedules so that they can actually spend time with their families. We need to raise the minimum wage to

\$15 an hour. And we need to make sure it's easier for workers to join together, to join the union and to join the middle class. Costs keep going up, but wages are flat for so many workers who just don't have good jobs. We can change that, but we need real action. For six years New Democrats have been calling on the Liberals to take the HST off of Hydro just as a first step towards actually trying to get those hydro bills under control. The only reason that we have the HST on our Hydro bills in the first place is because the Liberals put it there. Now, six years later, the Premier says she'll rebate the HST. But people are gonna have to wait for four more months. That raises a lot of questions about how long this rebate is gonna last and how exactly it's gonna work. People need real relief now. My message to the Premier is this; just take the HST off of hydro already. Once and for all. Just do it – get it over with, and permanently take the HST off of the hydro bills. You know when families and seniors open up their next hydro bill, they should see an 8% cut in their costs; they should see the provincial portion of the HST being removed, effective immediately. And the government shouldn't stop there when it comes to the hydro situation. They have to keep working to lower the hydro bills. And they have to stop any further sale-off of Hydro One. Look, new Democrats are gonna keep pushing this government hard to make a real difference in the lives of Ontarians. Because people need to see action now. We need to see big changes so that families have more security today; so that our children have more opportunity tomorrow; and so that the next generation can build a better future for themselves and their families right here in this great province of Ontario. Thank you very much, I'll take any questions.

Q: Carter: You must be pretty happy that after six years of asking the government to do something, they've actually gone ahead and done it.	Well, you know what – what I have to say is I'm happy for the families of Ontario if they can actually get a little bit of a break on their hydro bill. But the Liberals have done the wrong thing. They should permanently take the HST off the hydro bill, not provide some kind of rebate. They shouldn't have put the HST on the hydro bill in the first place, and they should take it off immediately.
Q: Carter: You can at least congratulate the government for doing what you've been asking for six years?	Well, six years is an awful long time to wait for families to get some relief. And that just shows how out of touch the Liberals have been all these years, when it comes to the struggles that families face.
Q: Benzie: Andrea, is this another example of the Liberals stealing NDP policy, they took your pension plan idea and ran and won a majority government in 2014, and now they're taking your idea from 2010 when McGuinty was still Premier and hopefully, they're hoping, it'll mean them winning another election. Are you concerned that maybe you put these things out there and then they plagiarise them?	Well you know, New Democrats work hard for the people of this province all the time. That's what we do. We listen to what people have to say, we take their concerns seriously and we bring forward initiatives to try to push the government to do the right thing by the government of Ontario. So we're proud of that track record and as I said, if it provides some relief for the families of Ontario, then we're happy to see that. But it should have been, instead of half a loaf, it should have been the appropriate thing which is to permanently remove the HST off of the hydro bills.
Q. Unidentified: Do you think the by-election loss is the reason why we're seeing this change in course, specifically with the HST (inaudible)?	Well, you're going to have to ask the Liberal government that. Again, I worry because they have not said they will take the HST off the hydro bills, end of story. They've said they're going to put some rebate in place come January, so not even right away, people are going to have to wait four more months, they're going to put some rebate in place to effectively reduce the bills by 8% which would be similar to or akin to taking the HST off. But there will still be an HST on the bill, it'll still be the 13% and then there will be another 8% reduction. So again, instead of doing the straight-up honest thing and the thing that people want to see, which is removing the HST off of the bills, they Liberals are not doing that. They're putting a rebate in place and who knows how long that rebate's going to last.
Q. Unidentified: Are Ontarians really going to save money here? I mean talking about	One of the things that we're very very concerned about is the situation in the hydro file overall. Look, we know that this

energy policy more broadly, I mean they're saying that this move is going to save \$130 a year, the rebate on the HST, but with the carbon tax if it's going to cost me at least \$150-\$160 a year at least, it's not just a game of taking from one place (inaudible) somewhere else?	government has gone gang-busters when it comes to privatising all aspects of our electricity system. The most recent of course is the selloff of Hydro One. They need to seriously realise that that penchant towards privatization of our generation as well as our transmission is simply going to continue to increase the bills and that's why New Democrats have said we need to have an electricity system that's public and that operates in the public interest. So not only have we called for the HST off the hydro bills but we've also called for the government to take a look at the electricity system and start implementing the big changes that are going to make a difference for people.
Q. Morrow: To Benzie's point, are you worried that the Liberals continue to eat your lunch? Because that was one of the big problems you guys had at the last election. Anything popular that you guys proposed the Liberals came and took it away from you and managed to win on that. So does it worry you that you're going to go into the next election basically face the same thing? The Liberals are going to say, hey New Democrats, vote for us because we'll basically do all the same things that Andrea's promising?	Well you know what? New Democrats believe firmly that we have a job to do which is to listen to what people have to say and try to make the kinds of proposals that will make a difference in their lives. That's what we have done for years and years now and that's what we're going to continue to do. We are not going to stop pushing this government and when an election comes putting together a platform that shows the people of Ontario that it's New Democrats who are the ones who are acting in their interests. Whether it's a matter of getting the HST off hydro, whether it's concerns around the hospital system and our healthcare system and the way that the Liberals have allowed both of those very important public services to erode, whether it's looking to see some big changes so that jobs are meaningful in this province and people can actually have a job that pays the bills and folks can be secure in the thought that their kids are going to be able to have an existence that's a decent quality of life in the future. These are things that New Democrats believe in and we're going to continue to fight for them whether it's in opposition, whether it's putting the ideas forward in a campaign, or whether it's as a government.
Q. Bliss: Do you think that taxpayers should subsidise ratepayers?	Look, I think that the families of this province need a break. I know that that is the case for sure. I also know that the liberals have done exactly the opposite. They have made it more difficult for people to make ends meet, they have made life less and less affordable, and that needs to be the focus. We need to focus on giving people a break and making sure that they can pay their bills, and that means
Q. Unidentified: (Inaudible)	I think that the HST should be taken off the bills. I don't think the HST should have been put on the bills in the first place. I don't want to, you know, kind of talk about a shell game about this pocket or that pocket, it should not be coming out of anybody's pocket in the first place. The HST should never have been put on the hydro bills and it needs to come off.
Q. Unidentified: Andrea, the Liberals mocked this proposal when you made it, they mocked your party for proposing it, but you seem to have gone out of your way not have an 'I told you so' moment here?	No, you know what? Because it's not about me. It is not about me, it is about the people of Ontario. That's who this should all be about. Again, we were wondering whether this was going to be a Throne Speech day that was going to be about the Liberals or whether it was going to be about the people of Ontario. I guess the people of Ontario are going to have to decide whether they feel this Throne Speech was about them, or whether it was about Kathleen Wynne trying to do something to increase the fortunes of the Liberal party.

	But for us, for New Democrats, it is about the people of Ontario. That's where I have to keep the focus because that's what people deserve and that's what people expect.
Q. Morrow: Does it seem convenient to you, this 100,000 new child care space pledges over five years? Under Liberals' logic, we would have to re-elect them for them to fulfill it?	There are a lot of unanswered questions about these child care spaces that were announced today. We have a government here in Ontario, this Liberal government that has allowed hundreds of child care spaces in municipalities to be closed, to be shut down and handed over to the private sector. New Democrats believe that people should not be making profits on kids. Bottom line. We think the child care system in this province needs to be a public system. But unfortunately, the Liberals have done the exact opposite. So perhaps there will be 100,000 new child care spaces. We will have to wait and see. The question is: Will parents be able to afford to put their children into those child care spaces? And, is it going to be the kind of quality and accountable child care system that the families of the province deserve?
Q. Unidentified: Electricity bills, what realistically can actually be done to have a shot-term impact on lowering those rates when so much of this is long-term structural costs that are built into our system?	The question we need to ask ourselves is who built those structural costs in? Conservatives and Liberals have built those costs in over time; they have done it systematically by privatizing our electricity system. It started with Conservative regime under Mike Harris and it's continued with the Liberals, more and more private contracts, and we know what those contracts likely have built into them. We saw that with the gas plant scandal. We saw exactly the kind of sweetheart deals that the Liberals put in place with these private companies. That's not what the electricity system was, I think, envisioned to be back at turn of the last century. Unfortunately, both Conservatives and Liberals have allowed our public system to be sold off to the highest bidder, whether it's in generation or transmission, and now we are paying the price. You look at Manitoba, you look at Quebec, both of the provinces on either side of us who have public systems completely and they are paying half or less than what we are paying here in Ontario. It is pretty clear.
Q. Bliss: Andrea, Do you think this is a longer-term plan heading to the election in 2018? If so, what is the strategy and messaging you are seeing out of this? What's the plan, to try and out-manoeuvre you guys?	I guess that is a question you are going to have to ask the Premier. New Democrats are going to stay focused on our work, which is really listening to the people of this province and trying to deliver the kind of real change that they expect and that they deserve, frankly.
Q. Bliss: You did that last time, too, right? You listened to the people, conveyed that message --	And I am proud of that. I am proud of the work we do on behalf of people. It is extremely important. That is our job, that's what we get elected to do and the people of Ontario are going to have to look at this particular day as well as everything else that the Liberals dish up over the next little while and make their determination themselves. But what I would hope is that folks recognize that we are going to continue to do that important work on behalf of them and their families, because we think this is a great province and we think there is great opportunity here, there is great potential here. But we don't have a government that has been able to realize that for the vast majority of folks. The few well connected, those folks that benefit from the

	decisions of the Liberals to privatize our energy system, you know, they did very, very well by this government. What we need to see is the people of this province--
Q. Bliss: What I asked specifically was, politically I guess-- let me rephrase it. How are you going to handle it? Your strategy in the last election didn't work very well, so what do you see coming? With respect, what do you see coming from the Liberals that you are going to have to out-manoeuvre?	Well again, I can't -- I don't have a crystal ball and I can't predict what the Liberals are going to do. But I can tell you what New Democrats are going to do. We are going to continue to fight hard on behalf of the people of this province. That's what I think the people of this province deserve and we are not going to take our eye off that ball, because they deserve political parties who are working hard to make life better, and that's not what they have seen in terms of the Liberals who have had the rein of this government in this province, in my opinion, for far too long.
<i>N.B.: Comments captured are not verbatim quotes</i>	

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