

Briefing July 12, 2017

Your morning briefing	2
Ontario's new long-term energy plan expected later this summer	5

Your morning briefing

12.07.2017 Sabrina Nanji 0

Headlines

Foreign buyers purchased one in every 11 homes bought in affluent suburbs in York Region over one month this spring, [according to a data analysis The Globe and Mail got its hands on](#). Per the Globe, 9.1 per cent of homes sales in the area involved international investors. The information comes after the provincial government's figures showing non-residents were involved in 4.7 per cent of sales across the Greater Golden Horseshoe region over the same period, and after it introduced a 15-per-cent foreign speculation levy.

PC Leader **Patrick Brown** isn't ready to commit to keeping the Liberal government's high-speed rail project that connects Toronto to London on track, [the London Free Press reports](#).

Brown is also still fuming over the Liberals' handling of the autism file last year, and this year's new program that increases access and funding doesn't appear to have sated him, [Global News reports](#).

Ontario universities are taking in \$1.3 billion in tuition fees from international students, which is double the amount they were paid four years ago, [according to the CBC](#).

Our stories from Tuesday:

- [Ontario's new long-term energy plan expected later this summer](#)
- [Judge erases conversation from legal battle over PC nomination in Hamilton West-Ancaster Dundas](#)
- [Social conservative group backs budding political party to make Patrick Brown 'sweat'](#)
- [Ontario taking slow ride on reforming auto insurance system, but making change to 'payer of last resort'](#)
- [The Funding Portal - Week of July 3](#)

"Grazie, Mario!" Premier **Kathleen Wynne** bid a heartfelt farewell to soon-to-be retired Liberal MPP for York West, **Mario Sergio**, who is [hanging up his hat before the 2018 election](#) after more than two decades at Queen's Park. A snippet: "Mario has always

kept in close touch with people in his community, understanding their lives and their needs and representing them faithfully at Queen's Park. It's been an honour working with Mario. In his most recent role as Minister Responsible for Seniors, Mario was a tireless advocate for seniors in our province, spearheading a number of initiatives to keep seniors active, healthy and engaged."

Let's keep the sappy goodbyes rolling. *QP Briefing* congratulates our own [Geoff Zochodne](#) on his new gig at the *Financial Post*. He will be greatly missed by all.

A handful of hospitals in the Barrie area received a combined [\\$6 million in infrastructure funding](#) from the health minister yesterday.

OPTrust, which handles pension assets for 90,000 current and former public service employees, is starting a \$300-million venture-capital fund, [Bloomberg reports](#).

In the opinion pages:

- Andrew Dreschel [floats a Hyperloop system](#) to transport folks under Lake Ontario
- John Michael McGrath [isn't holding his breath](#) waiting on government to rein in police strip searches
- Tarek Fatah [is unconvinced](#) by anti-minimum-wage-hike hysteria
- Hardly quacktacular, Ben Eisen [says of the giant rubber duck](#)

Committees

9:30 a.m.

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will meet to consider Bill 148, An act to amend the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act and to make related amendments to other acts. Courtyard Marriott Ottawa Downtown, Laurier Room, 350 Dalhousie St., Ottawa.

Events

9:30 a.m.

PC Leader Patrick Brown will make an announcement. Corner of Bay Street and Albert Street, Toronto.

10 a.m.

Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, will make an announcement. Outlet Beach, Sandbanks Provincial Park, 3004 Prince Edward County Road 1.

10:30 a.m.

Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, will make an announcement. Women's House Serving Bruce & Grey. 6 Mount Forest Ave., Kincardine.

1:10 p.m.

Patrick Brown will participate in a Women in Leadership Roundtable. Roberto's Restaurant, 22 Facer St., St. Catharines.

1:30 p.m.

Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health, will make an announcement. Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. 980 Oliver Rd., Thunder Bay.

6:30 p.m.

Patrick Brown will hold a townhall with community members. Welland Rose City Legion, 383 Morningside Ave., Welland.

Ontario's new long-term energy plan expected later this summer

11.07.2017 Geoff Zochodne 0

The Liberal government will unveil its latest (and maybe its last) blueprint for Ontario's electricity system later this summer, according to a recently filed regulation.

Ontario's long-term energy plan (or LTEP) is the government's big-picture vision for electricity and fossil fuels in the province.

"The Ministry of Energy anticipates the next long-term energy plan will be released in the late summer of 2017," [states a proposed regulation](#) that was posted to the province's Environmental Registry on July 7.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** [has also said](#) that the 2017 LTEP will update the government's past projections for the price of electricity. The Tories had called those estimates question after they said they were sent a confidential cabinet document by unknown "whistleblower" that showed costs would increase over time.

The coming update to the LTEP follows changes made to the province's long-term planning process, which the Liberal government legislated into effect last summer. "The first long-term energy plan will be released, subject to Cabinet approval, within three months of the proposed regulation coming into force," states the posting to the registry.

The update to the province's long-term energy plan will be the Liberals last chance to sculpt the electricity system before voters head to the polls next June. But, as per the proposed regulation, the Grits aim to make it so that future governments must table at least one long-term energy plan "within three year of either i) the Minister of Energy's approval of all implementation plans submitted under the previous plan; or ii) the issuance date of the previous long-term energy plan, if no implementation plans were required as part of the previous plan."

The next LTEP will also follow the Liberal government enacted its Fair Hydro Plan, which is lowering the average household electricity bill by 25 per cent. The government is doing so with an 8-per-cent rebate it announced last September, by taking the cost of social assistance programs off hydro bills and "refinancing" the global adjustment charge customers pay by taking on approximately \$25 million in debt.

