

FW: Morning Media Scan: Fair Hydro Plan - April 13, 2017

From: "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <gavin.halford@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Burns, Robert (MEDG/MRIS)" <robert.burns@ontario.ca>, "Chander, Sunita (ENERGY)" <sunita.chander@ontario.ca>, "Colalillo, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.colalillo@ontario.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY)" <serge.imbrogno@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Martin, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.martin@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, "Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY)" <patrick.imlay@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Cox, Hilary (ENERGY)" <hilary.cox@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Stromberg, Richard (MMA/MHO)" <richard.stromberg@ontario.ca>, "Martin, Ashley S. (MMA/MHO)" <ashley.s.martin@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>, "Evans, Andrew J. (MCSCS)" <andrew.j.evans@ontario.ca>, "Evans, Karen (ENERGY)" <karen.evans@ontario.ca>
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To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Bevan, Andrew (OPO); McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Donelson, Philip (OPO); Bossin, Bryan (OPO); Tomney, Genevieve (OPO); @CAB-Trans CO; Baker, Carys (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY); Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY); Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY); Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY); Foster, David (ENERGY); Iqbal, Muhammad (ENERGY); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY); Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY); Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY); Tresise, Landon (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); Walman, Evan (ENERGY)
Cc: Sumi, Craig (CAB); Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB); Law, Sally (CAB); Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB); Nutter, George (ENERGY); Halford, Gavin (ENERGY); Electronic Media

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MEDIA SCAN: FAIR HYDRO PLAN

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Click links below to view article:

[Print Coverage. 2](#)

[Sarnia This Week: MAID and anti-trafficking bills moving forward; A5; 2017.04.13 . 2](#)

Print Coverage

Sarnia This Week: MAID and anti-trafficking bills moving forward; A5; 2017.04.13

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MAID and anti-trafficking bills moving forward

Spring is here and the temperature is rising at Queen's Park. The Liberal Government can't shake the mess it has created in the province with rising energy prices. Residents are calling my office asking why they haven't seen a reduction on their bills yet. The answer is that the government has yet to introduce the legislation that is required to pull off their hydro rebate-refinancing plan. This is not unusual; this government has made a special practice of announcing and reannouncing its plans over the years. A major issue of interest from constituents recently has been Bill 84, Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act. My office has received close to one thousand letters and emails from the community asking that conscience protections for health care workers that object to the MAID be included in Bill 84. I agree and I wrote to Minister of Health and Long Term Care asking that this important provision be included in Bill 84 before it returns to the legislature for third reading.

I hand-delivered all of the letters and emails that I received directly to the minister. Thank you to all those individuals who took the time to write to my office.

Last week we also passed an important bill about a topic that I have discussed in this space on several occasions. Bill 96, Anti-Human Trafficking Act, was tabled by the Minister of the Status of Women, Indira Naidoo-Harris. Bill 96 adopts the solutions put forward to address the rapidly growing issue of human trafficking that my colleague MPP Laurie Scott first outlined in her own Private Member's Bill, The Saving the Girl Next Door Act.

The reality is that human trafficking is a modern form of slavery and it is going on in communities across this province. Late last month two individuals from the Peel Region were arrested in Sarnia and charged with human trafficking of a woman at a local motel. Hopefully this new legislation will provide individuals, the police, and the courts new tools and resources to fight against those who would commit such a despicable act as human trafficking.

Kudos to MPP Scott and Minister Naidoo-Harris for their attention and action on this issue; let's all be aware that human trafficking is going on, if you see something that doesn't sit right, please say something. Finally, the provincial budget is expected soon, more on its impact and the other important issues being debated at Queen's Park in my next column in few weeks.

As always, I very much appreciate hearing from you and I will continue to welcome your questions and concerns. I can be reached by phone: 519-337-0051, email bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org, through my website at www.bobbaileympp.com, or on facebook at facebook.com/BobBaileyMPP.