

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing - March 20

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Attachments: March 20, 2017 — Daily Report.pdf (158.19 kB); Briefing for March 20.pdf (516.22 kB)

Good Morning,

Please find attached the March 20, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing

Headlines

- o **(P.2)** In case you missed it: Ontario's auditor general [panned](#) the Liberal government's latest ads promoting their 17-per-cent hydro bill cut, saying they "have the objective of fostering a positive impression of the government." But, because of the

Liberals' changes to government ad legislation, the AG had to approve the spots.

Queens Park Today

Today at Queen's Park

- o (P.1) Ontario's first cap-and-trade carbon credit auction will also take place on Wednesday. All eyes will be on whether Environment and Climate Change Minister Glen Murray can raise significant dollars for the province's incoming "Green Bank."

New Democratic Party of Ontario

- o (P.4) NDP Energy critic Peter Tabuns said his party is filing Freedom of Information requests to find out how much the Wynne Liberals spent on new ads promoting their Fair Hydro Plan. Tabuns said, "Yet again, it's all about Kathleen Wynne and her party and not at all about making life more affordable for real people. This looks an awful lot like she's spending people's money to try to buy some support in the next election for herself and her party."

§ (P.4) In a [statement](#) to Global News, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk agreed the publicly-funded ads are problematic: "Our Office approved the Hydro-related ads under the current version of the Government Advertising Act. However, they would not have passed under the previous legislation because we feel that these ads have the objective of fostering a positive impression of the government."

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

- o (P.4) PC leader Patrick Brown issued an open letter to Treasury Board President Liz Sandals about the new hydro ads. Brown said the government "has no authority to be spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars on partisan radio and social media ads to promote a plan that has not yet been tabled, debated and voted on in the Legislature."
- o (P.4) Brown called on Sandals to "immediately stop spending another cent on this advertising campaign" and to release the names of the firms that

were paid the “lucrative” advertising contracts.