

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queen's Park Today - May 30, 2018

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Attachments: QP Briefing May 30.pdf (316.42 kB); Queen's Park Today- May 30.pdf (161.36 kB)

Good morning,

Please find attached the May 30, 2018 issues of QP Briefing and Queen's Park Today.

QP Briefing

From the opinion pages

- (pg. 4) Ed Keenan demands more transparency from Toronto Hydro.

Feature stories

- (pg 6) NDP leader defends her hydro platform math from PC criticism
 - o (pg. 6) NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** defended her promise to lower Ontarians' hydro bills by 30 per cent – a claim the Progressive Conservatives say just doesn't add up.
 - o (pg. 6) The NDP platform makes this promise to voters: "We will cut hydro bills by 30 per cent and put Hydro One back in public hands." For details, it

directs voters to read their full hydro plan on the party website – a plan the party created two years ago.

- o (pg. 6) The PCs listed numerous concerns with the NDP's hydro plan, beginning with the New Democrats' promise to cancel the Liberal government's Fair Hydro Plan – a system of borrowing that keeps residential rates artificially lower – by an average of 25 per cent – in the short term, before allowing them to rise again.
- o (pg. 6) The NDP says it would lower rates for many rural customers by flattening delivery fees, with the cost of that change offset by lowering fees Ontario Power Generation pays the provincial government. Meanwhile, the party's promise to end time-of-use pricing would lower bills for some people, but raise it for others. Some low-income families would benefit from a commitment to double Ontario Electricity Support Program benefit.

Queen's Park Today

Topics of conversation

- (pg .5) In defending her plan to buy back the partially privatized Hydro One, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** said, if elected, her party will immediately gather expert advice on the best way to purchase shares of the utility sold off. She pointed to companies like Heinz and Dell who, after going public, bought back all of the shares previously sold to private shareholders.
 - o The New Democrats would use the dividend paid by Hydro One to the province to buy those shares back, a move the Tories say would only benefit shareholders and not ratepayers.
- (pg. 5) Meanwhile, PC MPPs **Todd Smith** and **Lisa MacLeod** met with reporters in Toronto Tuesday to discuss how the NDP's energy strategy would result in higher hydro rates. Between the New Democratic Party's plan to cancel the Liberal's Fair Hydro Plan, its 30 per cent hydro bill reduction and the \$600 million cost to shut down of the Pickering nuclear plant in August, the Tories argue that hydro bills will only increase under an NDP government.
 - o In a release, the PCs also claimed it would take the New Democrats 31 years to successfully buy back Hydro One given their platform allocates \$300 million a year towards purchasing the utility that was sold for \$9.2 billion.
 - o "The NDP plan is to spend money they do not have on a hydro savings plan that does not exist," Smith said. "And along the way they are going to rip

you off with skyrocketing hydro rates that Ontario families cannot afford.”

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