

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queens Park Today - April 4

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Attachments: April 4, 2017 — Daily Report.pdf (151.76 kB); Briefing for April 4.pdf (450.99 kB)

Good Morning,

Please find attached the April 4, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing

Headlines:

(P.2) More than half of Ontarians think the Liberals' plan to further reduce electricity bills by an average 17 per cent this summer isn't worth extending the province's debt, according to a Forum Research poll released Tuesday and provided exclusively to *QP*

Briefing. Still, 32 per cent of those surveyed thought the ends justify the means. [Check it.](#)

(P.2) At least the Grits have a plan for voters to oppose? The Progressive Conservatives are the last among the sitting parties to reveal their hydro relief package, and the *Toronto Star* reports we shouldn't hold our breath – Leader Patrick Brown is [reportedly not going to spill the deets until next year](#), despite a policy convention happening in late November.

Article:

(P.5) Majority oppose Wynne's plan to cut hydro costs by increasing debt, poll suggests

(P.7) 'A very historic milestone': Ontario's first cap-and-trade auction a near sellout

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Queens Park Today

News briefs – Governmental

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

(P.4) The ministry announced that 100 per cent of available carbon credits were sold in the province's first cap and trade auction on March 22. The province sold over 25 million allowances at the base price of \$18.08 and an additional 812,000 future (2020) allowances at \$18.07 each. In total the auction generated \$472 million in proceeds,

which will be used for green investment projects. More details on the sale and a list of companies that purchased allowances is available [online](#) .

- **(P.4) Environmental groups and the California Air Resources Board praised the success.**
- **(P.4) PC leader Patrick Brown said the scheme is “bad for Ontario” and is causing businesses of all sizes to consider leaving the province for other jurisdictions.**

(P.4) Brown also said the sale of only 812,000 of the 3 million available future allowances means “Ontario businesses have very little confidence in the longevity of this expensive cap-and-trade experiment.”

PC lead off

Executive salaries

(P.6) PC leader Patrick Brown went after the premier over high salaries on the SunshineList, including the \$1.2 million earned by Ontario Power Generation’s CEO and the \$230,000 earned by the former president of UP Express in just three months.

- o (P.6) Brown asked why the government allows these offensive salaries when the average Ontarian cannot afford their hydro bills.**

(P.6) Treasury Board President Liz Sandals said in the case of employees who retired partway through the year, they may have accrued years of vacation pay that was included on their salary disclosure.

(P.6) Brown also asked how many more members of the “millionaires club” would have been on the list if Hydro One employee salaries were still included.

NDP lead off

Executive compensation

(P.6) NDP leader Andrea Horwath also asked about the Sunshine List’s omission of Hydro One salaries. Horwath said the government is refusing to report the salaries even though the majority of the utility is still publicly owned.

(P.6) Horwath also called out the premier on the fact that six of the ten highest paid

provincial employees were hospital CEOs. She