

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queens Park Today - May 16

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Good Morning,

Please find attached the May 16, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing **Headlines**

- **(P.2)** Your morning briefing

Articles

- **(P.5)** Hydro One privatization could cost more than \$150 million
- **(P.7)** Tories double down on contempt charge over Liberals' hydro plan ads

- **(P.9)** MPPs prepare for midnight debates before summer break

Queens Park Today

On the schedule

- **(P.1)** Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act, will continue to be debated at second reading in the afternoon
- **(P.1)** PC MPP Lisa Thompson introduced a bill entitled Bill 133, Retiring the Debt Retirement Charge Act. If passed, Thompson's bill would remove the debt retirement charge from the hydro bills of Ontario small businesses.
- **(P.1)** In the afternoon, MPPs began second reading debate on Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act. The bill was also debated during an evening session that was scheduled to run until midnight.
- **(P.2)** PC MPP Steve Clark called on Speaker Dave Levac to rule on whether the Ministry of Energy is in contempt of parliament for advertising "unqualified claims" about the Fair Hydro Plan before the bill was introduced in the legislature. This is the second time Clark has called for a contempt ruling on this issue.

News briefs – Non-governmental

New Democratic Party of Ontario

- **(P.5)** NDP leader Andrea Horwath held a news conference on Monday morning to declare her party will be voting against the government's Fair Hydro Plan. Horwath said the bill was introduced with just eight days left in the legislative session, meaning it will not get enough scrutiny. She said the leaked cabinet documents prove the plan is "a \$40-billion attempt to buy an election" and called on the government to release any more "secret documents" that include projections on how much the Liberal plan will cost ratepayers.
- **(P.5)** The Liberal Party called news that the NDP will not support the Fair Hydro Plan "stunning" after months of the party calling for lower hydro rates. The Liberal Party said the NDP plan to buy Hydro One shares back from the stock market will not take one cent off of electricity bills.

Question period

PC lead off

Hydro rates

- **(P.6)** PC leader Patrick Brown asked about leaked cabinet documents projecting hydro rates will skyrocket 61 per cent after the 2022 election. Brown said according to the documents, hydro bills will hit a record high in

2024 and then, in 2028, the average bill will hit well over \$200.

- Brown said the Fair Hydro Plan is an “election gimmick.”

- (P.6) Premier Kathleen Wynne said Brown is referring to a document that is out of date and not the document the Fair Hydro Plan is based on.
- (P.6) Brown said dates on the document show that it is only a few months old—if these numbers are not accurate, he said the Liberals must release their actual projections now.
- (P.6) Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the 2017 long-term energy plan will be coming in the next few months that will show hydro prices “will continue to be lower.”
- (P.6) Referring to the PC’s policy convention, Thibeault said the PCs are waiting “for a magic weekend in November to actually devise plans for the entire province.”

Debt Retirement Charge

- (P.6) PC MPP Todd Smith asked when the Energy Minister is going to admit he is bringing the Debt Retirement Charge.
- (P.6) (Smith is referring to the Clean Energy Adjustment, which the Fair Hydro Plan will add to bills in 2027-28).
- (P.6) Smith said, “This is the debt retirement charge we all remember from our bills – only now on steroids.” He said none of this money will go to energy costs. It will all go to paying interest to bankers.

Cap-and-trade revenues

- (P.6) PC MPP Ted Arnott said he has learned the government is stacking the Ontario Climate Change Solutions Deployment Corp. with green energy insiders and lobbyists.
 - Arnott asked Environment Minister Glen Murray how much this redundant agency will cost to administer and asked for a personal guarantee that no energy insiders would benefit from cap-and-trade revenues.

NDP lead off

Hydro rates

- (P.7) NDP leader Andrea Horwath said the document leaked by a whistleblower last week means “we know for sure” that hydro rates will

spike under the Liberal's Fair Hydro Plan.

- o Horwath asked why the premier is endorsing this “disgusting betrayal of Ontarians.”**

· (P.7) Wynne said the Fair Hydro Plan will immediately bring down electricity bills in the short-term, while the government develops “a long-term energy plan that will continue to take costs out of the system.”