

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queens Park Today

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Good Morning,

Please find attached the March 10, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing

Headlines

- o **(P.2) Patrick Brown** has one-upped the Liberals Party's "Facts Still Matter in Ontario" campaign with his best **Donald Trump** impression: the PC Leader described the Grits hydro, transit and economic talk as "fake spin" during a speech to the Toronto Region

Queens Park Today

Question period

PC questions

Cap-and-trade

- o (P.4) PC leader **Patrick Brown** called on the government to make the cost of its cap-and-trade program visible on natural gas bills.
- o (P.4) Brown called cap and trade a \$1.9 billion cash grab used to flatter voters.
- o (P.4) He said “all bets are off” on the cost of the program once Ontario joins the California—Quebec carbon market next year, noting the last carbon auction only sold 18 per cent of available permits.
- o (P.4) Environment Minister **Glen Murray** said Brown is a “man with no plan” and that the cost of doing nothing on climate change would be catastrophic.
- o (P.4) Murray said the decision not to list cap-and-trade costs on bills was made by the OEB.

NDP questions

NDP Lead-off

- o (P.5) NDP deputy leader **Jagmeet Singh** said women are disproportionately affected by high hydro bills. He said single mothers need a permanent solution that will actually keep hydro bills down, rather than a plan to help bankers. Evoking a woman in Sault Ste. Marie who can only afford to heat one room of her apartment, Singh called for an end to mandatory time-of-use pricing.
- o (P.5) Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said people living on the outskirts of Sault Ste. Marie will see their bills reduced by 40-50 per cent.

Hydro rates for medium-sized businesses

- o (P.5) NDP MPP **Sarah Campbell** said medium-sized businesses like Nickel Lake Lumber

sawmill in Fort Frances will not benefit from the Liberals new hydro plan because it is too big to receive the 25 per cent small business credits, but is too small to participate in the expanded Industrial Conservation Initiative.

- o **(P.5)** Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said forestry companies like Resolute Forest Products and Tembec have told him their northern Ontario hydro costs are among the lowest they pay anywhere in North America.